



*Through the Heart  
of the ...*

**ROCKIES &  
SELKIRKS**

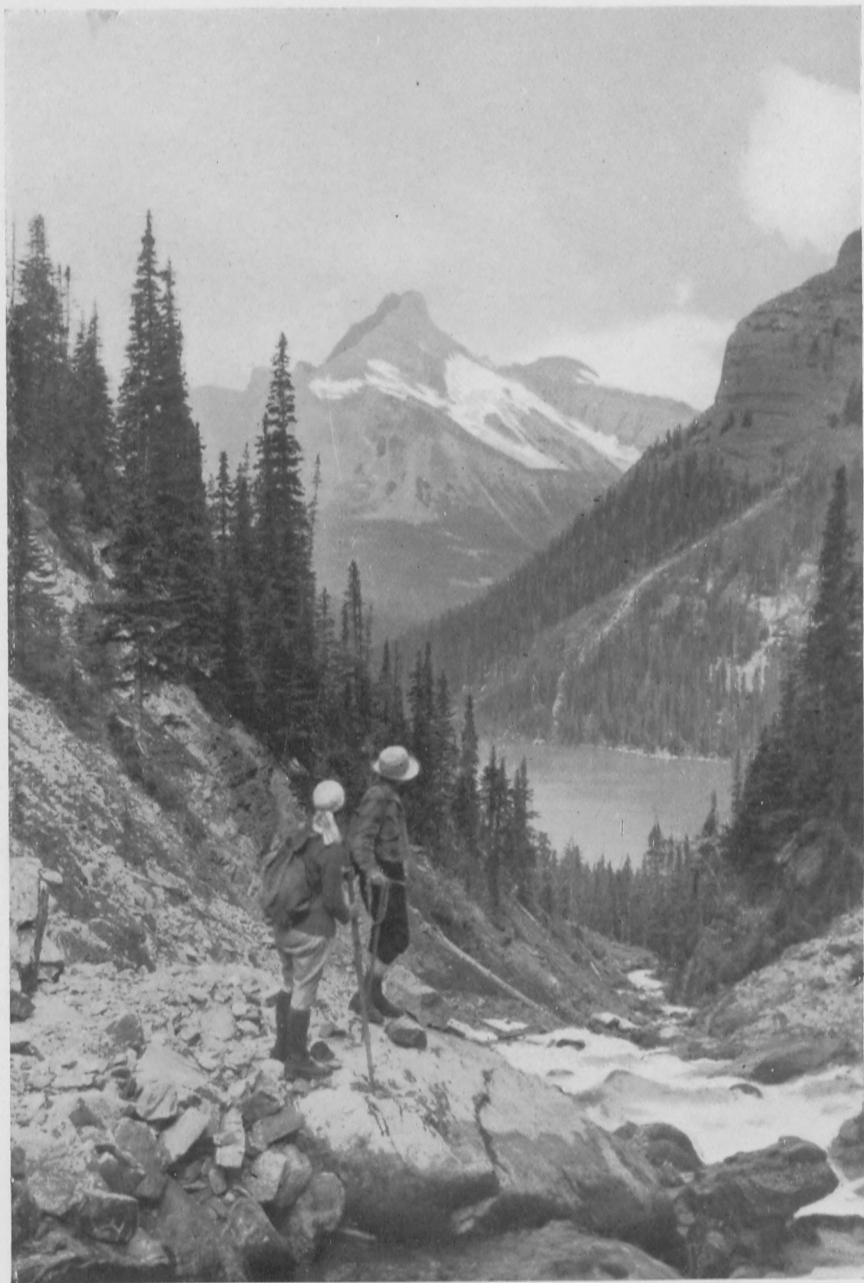
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NATIONAL PARKS OF CANADA









"Here the spirit of beauty keepeth jubilee for evermore."

*Frontispiece*



# Through the Heart of the Rockies and Selkirks

*By M. B. Williams*



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## Foreword

**A**MONG the western Indians there is a legend of Ah-ka-noosta, mightiest of hunters, who, in spite of the passing of many winters, grew not old. Each spring he would disappear from the tribe, returning in the autumn with renewed vigour as if he had recovered the spirit of his youth. At last his brothers, wondering, begged him to tell what secret magic he had discovered. Ah-ka-noosta, however, declared he had no magic; he had only been away in the mountains, living like the wild goat and the eagle among the high peaks, sleeping in the tepee of the pine forest and drinking the clear waters of the mountain springs. His brothers, still incredulous at so simple an explanation, did not believe him and a legend grew up among them that Ah-ka-noosta had discovered in the mountains a magic lake whose waters were the Elixir of Life.

Many centuries have passed since the days of Ah-ka-noosta, but we are just beginning to realize that he had no secret everyone may not share. Let us but leave the cares and anxieties of ordinary occupations behind us and travel to the mountains, live among the great peaks and the forests, or beside the wonderful lakes and waterfalls in the pure life-giving air for a little while, and we shall find out what a magical influence they possess. Getting back to the wilderness is "getting home." "Is not the earth mother to us all?" asks "A.E." "Is it not from Nature we draw life? Do we not perish without sunshine and fresh air?" Among the mountains we come again close to that Ancient Mother, Nature, who, "alive and miraculous," alone keeps the secret of the perpetual springs of life. That the road should always be open for all who wish to follow Ah-ka-noosta's trail back to increased vitality and happiness, over twelve thousand square miles of Canadian mountain wilderness have been set aside in the name of the people, for the benefit, use and enjoyment of all the sons and daughters of Canada and their friends from afar.

National parks are maintained for all the people—for the ill, that they may be restored, for the well, that they may be fortified and inspired by the sunshine, the fresh air, the beauty and all the other healing, ennobling and inspiring agencies of Nature. They exist in order that every citizen of Canada may satisfy his soul-craving for Nature and Nature's beauty; that he may absorb the poise and restfulness of the forests; that he may steep his soul in the brilliance of the wild flowers and the sublimity of the mountain peaks; that he may develop in himself the buoyancy, the joy, and the activity he sees in the wild animals; that he may stock his brain and his mind as he would a warehouse with the raw material of intelligent optimism, great thoughts, noble ideals; that he may be made better, happier and healthier.

J. B. HARKIN,  
Commissioner, National Parks of Canada







Rocky Mountain Sheep

## CHAPTER I

### THE CANADIAN ROCKIES

The Mountains are so kindly and so great that they reject none of those who turn to them, and they are good to all; to the men of science who come to study them; to the painters and the poets who seek an inspiration in them; to the sturdy climbers who zealously seek violent exercise, and to the weary who flee from the heat and the turmoil of the city to refresh themselves at this pure source of physical and moral health.—Guido Rey.

Mountain ranges that combine sublimity and beauty in equal measure are few in number. Among these for centuries the Alps have stood pre-eminent. In the last half century, however, a new mountain region, The Canadian Rockies, equalling the Alps in mingled beauty and grandeur yet with a marked individuality and character of its own, has been opened to the world. It is a little more than forty years since the Canadian Pacific Railway unlocked the long closed door to the Canadian mountains. Already their fame has spread to all parts of the world and each year sees an increasing stream of travel from every country under the sun coming to admire the wonders of these glorious ranges. Yet, there is no danger of the Rockies becoming overcrowded. Their extent is so tremendous that they may well serve as the playground of almost unlimited numbers. A great part of them has not yet been really explored. Each year new trails are being opened up, new beauties discovered. One of the chief charms of the Rockies is that their territory is and will be for many years to come still a virgin land. One may travel through the heart of it in luxurious Pullmans and find accommodation comparable to the best on the continent, yet half an hour's walk from the railway Nature is still as wild and solitary and beautiful as she was before the white man came.

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## THE CANADIAN ROCKIES

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### CANADA'S NATIONAL PARKS

In these wonderful mountains, apparently designed by the Great Landscape Architect of the Universe for the perpetual pleasure and refreshment of man, the Canadian Government has set aside over 12,000 square miles to be preserved and maintained for public use and enjoyment as national parks. This is an area two-thirds as great as Switzerland and almost as large as Belgium. It ensures that the finest parts of Canada's great mountain regions, with all their native plant and animal life, will be forever preserved in primeval beauty and wildness for the use and enjoyment of the Canadian people.

These great reservations declares T. G. Langstaff, the eminent English alpinist and traveller, are destined to become "the playground of the world." Nature, indeed, seems to have showered on this country every beauty in her Pandora box. Imagine a region where the sublimity of the scenery is matched by the beauty, where tremendous peaks lift their foreheads beyond the clouds, and fearful canyons hide their feet in unimaginable depths, where great leviathan glaciers creep down from the frozen desolation of alpine heights and black walls of precipices rise up and shut out the light of day. Imagine such a landscape clothed and softened by luxuriant pine forests, by smiling green valleys "murmurous with streams," by the airy veils of silvery waterfalls tumbling against black precipice or green forest and tangling the rainbow in their folds, by the brilliance of alpine uplands sparkling with millions of flowers, and by innumerable magically tinted lakes. Place these under a sky, "blue as the sky of fairyland," changing from moment to moment and from hour to hour under varying light and drifting purple cloud shadows, glorified at sunrise and sunset into almost unearthly beauty and transformed by moonlight into a veritable palace of dreams. Add glorious, life-giving mountain air, warm sunny summer days and pleasantly cool nights. Have you not here all the raw material for the perfect holiday land?

There are seven national parks in the Rockies: Jasper Park, in Northern Alberta, with an area of 4,517 square miles; Waterton Lakes Park, in Southern Alberta, 220 square miles, adjoining the United States Glacier National Park at the International boundary; four parks along the main line of the Canadian Pacific Railway through the Central Rockies and Selkirks—Banff, Yoho, Glacier and Mount Revelstoke; and the new highway park established along the Vermilion-Kootenay section of the Transmontane motor road, which is called Kootenay Park.

The Government takes charge of all administration within the parks, protecting them by eternal vigilance from the ever-threatening menace of fire, guarding the rich heritage of wild life, preserving and enhancing the natural beauty of the landscape, opening up the many attractions by roads and trails and making provision in every way for the convenience and comfort of visitors.

No land may be purchased in the parks, but sites for business or residential purposes may be secured for a nominal rental. There are

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## ROCKIES AND SELKIRKS

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no monopolies and no concessions. Equal opportunity for all is the policy of the administration. The various businesses which provide service for the tourist are regulated by a system of licenses. A health inspector ensures cleanliness and sanitation. Law and order are enforced by a justice of the peace and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police.

### PARKS OF THE CENTRAL ROCKIES AND SELKIRKS

"Generations as they pass  
Worship thee with bended knees;  
Their unremaining gods and they  
Like a river roll away;  
Thou remainest such—alway."

The four parks of the Central Rockies and Selkirks with which this guidebook is concerned cover about 5,000 square miles. They lie along the main line of the Canadian Pacific Railway and, though not continuous throughout, for all tourist purposes form practically one park. Banff Park, 3,834.5 square miles, which stretches from the foothills to the crest of the Rockies, is the largest. Yoho Park, 476 square miles, adjoins it at the Divide and has its western boundary a few miles beyond Leancoil station. After crossing the wide valley of the Columbia, at Golden, the railway begins the ascent of the Selkirks and a few miles west of Beaver mouth station enters Glacier Park, 468 square miles, passing out of the park near Illecillewaet station. Mount Revelstoke Park, 100 square miles in area, lies at the summit of mount Revelstoke and is reached by motor from Revelstoke station.

The name "Rocky Mountains" appears to be of Cree origin. Long before the advent of the white man the Indians of the plains, gazing at the glistening line of peaks stretched across the West, called them the "Shining Mountains." Legardeur St-Pierre in his journal, 1752, states that among the Crees they were called "Assin-wati," that is, literally, stony or rocky mountains. He translated the name into French—"Montagnes des Roches"—and by the English equivalent they have since been known.

Although this name has been loosely applied to the whole western mountain region, it properly belongs only to the first great eastern range. The Canadian Cordilleras comprise three great parallel belts, each of which includes several mountain systems. Together these make up a mountain area which covers, roughly speaking, about 250,000 square miles.

The Rockies system is the greatest both in area and in the height of its peaks. It extends from the eastern foothills west to what is known as the Rocky Mountain Trench, the great intramontane trough now occupied by the waters of the Kootenay, Columbia, South fork of the Fraser, etc., which marks the division between the older mountains to the west and their comparatively youthful descendents, the Rockies. The Selkirks belong to the three principal ranges of the Interior system. They lie within the bend of the Columbia river which, rising in the Kootenay lakes, flows north not far from the Athabaska pass and thence

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## THE CANADIAN ROCKIES

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by a wide detour flows south again to the International boundary. Within the curve of this elbow the Selkirks lie like a rocky fortress encircled by a moat. Their length from north to south is about 300 miles.

GENERAL CHARACTER OF ROCKIES AND SELKIRKS.—Each of the four parks has a distinct individuality of its own, for while there is a general resemblance throughout all parts of the Canadian Cordilleras, each range and section has its special characteristics and charm of scenery which differentiate it from any other. Between the Rockies and Selkirks this difference is particularly marked. The Selkirks are much the older formation. Their snowcapped summits towered over



The Backbone of the Selkirks—Rogers Pass

the western world ages before the Rockies were lifted from the ocean's bed. In the course of centuries their harsh contours and upper summits have been worn down and rounded by the thumb of Time and, though probably once the higher range, they are now from 1,000 to 2,000 feet lower than their more youthful neighbours. They lack, too, the sharp spires and pinnacles and castellated summits which make the Rockies so picturesque. While the Selkirks are slightly lower in average height than the Rockies, the individual peaks usually rise higher above the valleys than in the case of the Rockies. The elevation of the valleys in the Rockies is from 500 to 1,200 feet higher than those of the Selkirks. The Selkirks, however, are pre-eminent in the wonderful luxuriance of their dark green forests and in the extent and mass of ice which lies upon their summits throughout the year. Precipitation in these mountains is extremely heavy, the average being 56.68 inches of which more than 75 per cent falls as snow. As much as 50 feet of snow has been recorded in a single season. This great mass of snow and ice melts



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## HOW THE MOUNTAINS WERE FORMED

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but little from year to year and forms a thick cap over all the peaks reaching down practically to timber line. One of the delights of almost every landscape in the Selkirks is the vista of dazzling white summits rising directly above the green forests against a brilliant blue sky. Everywhere these great snow masses are compressed and flow down the mountains in the slow rivers of ice known as glaciers. The number of glaciers in the Selkirks has never been computed but from some of the peaks in Glacier Park over one hundred can be counted at once. All the other beautiful phenomena of an alpine world are also present—ice-caves, waterfalls, green valleys and uplands that are veritable gardens of wild flowers.

In the higher Rocky Mountains range there is a much lighter precipitation and Chinook winds remove much snow from the eastern slope which would otherwise go to form glaciers, so that their grey, sharp-pointed peaks often rise gaunt and bare several thousand feet above timber line. On the loftier peaks, however, beautiful glaciers and permanent snowcaps are to be found, and in the Lake Louise district and Yoho Park one finds every charm of an alpine world. Characteristic, too, of the Rockies is the countless number of beautiful lakes with an infinite variety of colouring and setting such as holds the spectator almost breathless. The forests of the Rockies, while always beautifully green, are lighter in colour and less dense in undergrowth on the east. Tree growth rises to about 6,500 or 7,000 feet. The Rockies for the most part are formed of grey limestone with bands of purplish shales, while the Selkirks are composed of brilliantly coloured quartzite which adds much to the beauty of the rocks.

FORMATION OF THE ROCKIES AND SELKIRKS.—As one travels among these great ranges inevitably the question arises: How were these mountains formed, by what Titanic forces, in what convulsive throes of the old earth were these enormous masses crumpled and folded and lifted miles into the air? To the geologist the story is as clear as print. Nature with a tremendous gesture has here laid bare the secrets of her history for many millions of years. In the lines and markings and imprisoned life of the strata he can decipher the whole record. This ancient tale of the hills, as he tells it, is a fascinating story.

Long, long ago, he says, how many million years ago even a geologist hesitates to say but probably ages before the mollusc, the jellyfish and the crustacean were squirming in the Cambrian slime, the place where now the Rockies stand was the floor of an inland sea. Its western limit was a mountain barrier, of which the Selkirks formed a part, which rose beyond what is now the Rocky Mountain Trench; its eastern, probably the shield of the Laurentians east from Hudson bay. Year after year, through countless centuries, rocky dust from this ancient western range was carried down by wave and stream and laid on the floor of the ocean bed. Century after century, aeon after aeon, while mammals passed from invertebrates to vertebrates, while nature experimented with fishes in all colours and forms, shaped the toad, the frog and the salamander and grew her great forests of fern, the sedimentary

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## THE CANADIAN ROCKIES

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process went on till, layer upon layer, a bed of 50,000 feet thick was formed. At some time in what is called the Carboniferous period, as the result of tremendous pressure exerted from the west, the floor of the



Mt. Rundle, Banff  
A "writing desk" type of mountain

ocean bed began to rise. Slowly it rose through millions of years until the waters became so shallow over a great part of the area that extensive swamps and shallow bogs were formed in which huge and ungainly dinosaurs probably wallowed in luxurious content. About these shores flourished a luxuriant vegetation which later formed the rich coal-beds found at Canmore and Bankhead in the Banff Park and elsewhere. At the close of what is called the Mesozoic period, or the Age of Reptiles, which concluded according to various estimates between 40,000,000 years ago and 4,000,000 years ago, another tremendous thrust occurred from the west which became so great that it lifted the whole rocky crust of this district and crumpled it into folds like a sheet of paper. "As the pressure continued the folds became closed and overturned towards the east. Later the strata broke along the lines

of least resistance and the rocks on the west side of the fault were pushed upwards and thrust over the rocks on the east side." In this way beds which were millions of years older were thrust over the tops of the younger beds. This fault or break occurred in the neighbourhood of Castle. The mountains in the eastern part of the park reveal clearly the manner in which this occurred. Many of the peaks show the characteristic "writing desk" formation, ancient grey limestones sloping gently from the west and breaking off on the eastern side in a steep escarpment.

No sooner were the mountains uplifted than the forces of destruction began the work of tearing them down. Nature with her "hammer of wind and graver of frost" split up the rock along the lines of striation and carved it into sculptured forms. Water courses formed along the transverse cracks and in the valleys between the parallel ridges.

The glacial period followed, during which Arctic conditions prevailed over the whole northern half of the continent. Year by year

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## THE ICE AGE

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all moisture fell in the form of snow until an ice-cap thousands of feet thick was formed, above which only the higher peaks lifted their frosty heads. The desolation of this period appals the imagination. Not a single green thing remained. For thousands of years frost, silence and death held the mountains in their grip. And yet if there was no life there was motion. The glaciers were forming in the valleys and along the old water courses, pressing down from the heights with increasing force, scraping and carving and tearing the rocks as they came. As the loads upon them grew heavier the great trunk glaciers in the valleys had to squirm deeper in their rocky beds, hollowing out the V-shaped valleys into the form of a U. For thousands of years the ice advanced, and then for thousands of years it receded, to advance again. Four great waves of cold swept downward from the pole causing world-wide changes in the relative levels of land and sea. At length after uncounted ages, slowly, year by year, life came back again to the land. The warm rains fell, the winds blew softly, the sunshine broke upon the frozen valleys, the Frost King was driven back to the Arctic, the tender green again appeared, the streams ran sparkling to the sea and all the mountain world was reborn in the dawn of a new day.

Much as they were then, subject only to the slow erosion and corrosion of natural forces, the Rockies have since remained. Avalanche and tempest, thunderbolt and flood have carved their lofty summits into ever-varying sculpture and graven new scars on their old flanks already torn by ice-claw and frost-tooth, but their general form and features are believed to be unchanged. When one thinks of the dateless centuries through which these gaunt, grey peaks have looked out across the plains, the life of the individual seems as ephemeral as the butterflies fluttering over the windflowers on the slopes. In the tremendous calendar of the mountains a thousand years are as one day and our little civilization as a watch in the night. Babylon and Assyria, Greece and Rome have risen and passed, but they remain. What life went on about their feet through all those centuries, while the buffalo herds grew black upon the plains? The smoke of Indian campfires rose blue along the eastern foothills, but the Indians seem to have feared and avoided the mountains. Probably a few hundred years ago the Kootenays, seeking shelter from their hereditary enemies, the Blackfeet, fled from Montana to the fertile valleys of the Kootenay and Columbia west of the Divide. Later, possibly less than a century ago, the Stonies entered Bow valley, perhaps in search of game; the Shuswaps coming from the west to visit the Stonies built their half-buried dwellings at the base of mount Rundle where now the tourist plays golf, but the Indians left few more marks of their habitation than the wild animals.

The discovery of the west by De la Verendrye in 1743 marked a new era. It meant the coming of the white man, restless maker of change the world over. Fifty years later Sir Alexander Mackenzie, stubborn son of Scotland, overcoming tremendous toil and hardship, fought his way through to the Pacific, by way of the Peace and the Fraser, thence overland, emerging at the mouth of the Bella Coola river. In 1807

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## THE CANADIAN ROCKIES

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David Thompson, the indefatigable land geographer, crossed the mountains by way of the Saskatchewan and Howse pass, reaching the Kootenay country and establishing a fort on the present lake Windermere. The Rev. Mr. Rundle, missionary to the tribes of the east slope of the Rockies, was probably the first white man to penetrate the Bow valley. He arrived there in June, 1841, and camped for several weeks at the foot of Cascade mountain, during which time he climbed this mountain and visited the Bow falls. In August, 1841, Sir George Simpson, Governor of the Hudson's Bay Company, and one of the most eminent pathfinders of the great Company of Pathfinders, led by Peechee, a Cree chief, penetrated the Bow valley and crossed the mountains by what is now called Simpson pass. In 1845, Father P. J. de Smet, who had been conducting a mission among the Kootenays, came over Whiteman's pass to the Bow river where the village of Canmore is now situated. A few years later began the determined search for the mythical route to Asia through British territory. Sir James Hector, geologist with the British expedition under Palliser, followed the Bow river to what is now known as Altrude creek, thence over the Vermilion pass and by way of the Vermilion to the Kootenay. Turning north up the Kootenay he descended the Beaverfoot to the Kicking Horse river which he followed to its head, passing through the now famous Kicking Horse pass, and again reaching the Bow valley. The discovery of this pass was the first of the two keys needed to unlock the Rockies. The other was the discovery of Rogers pass by Major Rogers, Engineer in Charge of the Mountain Division of the Canadian Pacific Railway in 1881. Four years later, at nine o'clock in the morning on the 7th of November, Sir Donald Smith, later Lord Strathcona, drove the last spike in the junction of the eastern and western divisions at Craigellachie and the Canadian mountains were open to the world.

Soon after, as has been said, the government set aside three national reservations including some of the most impressive scenery along the railway in order that a certain share at least of this great region should be preserved in its primitive wildness and beauty for future generations. The Canadian Pacific Railway Company built comfortable hotels at the four principal points: Banff, Lake Louise, Field and Glacier. Active measures for the protection of the wild life existing in the parks were undertaken by the government and a policy of development inaugurated which has gradually opened up the whole of these beautiful districts by means of roads or trails.

The coming of the motor opened another chapter in history. With it came the demand for entrance to the national parks and the Rockies by motor. The project of an intramontane highway connecting the Prairies and the Coast was conceived by some of the more imaginative. The assistance of Federal and Provincial Governments was enlisted and in 1911 surveys were begun for a highway from Calgary through Banff park to Castle, thence over the Vermilion summit to the Columbia valley to connect with existing British Columbia roads. In 1914 at the time of the outbreak of the war the road was open from Calgary to the Vermilion pass and about 12 miles had



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## THE ICE AGE

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been completed on the western end. The war put a stop to further operations but at its close the project was again taken up and in 1922 the road, now known as the Banff-Windermere Highway, was finally completed. On June 30, 1923, in the presence of distinguished representatives from the Federal, Provincial and United States Governments, it was formally opened for traffic. Five miles along each side of the new highway from the Vermilion pass to Sinclair canyon were also set apart for national park purposes, and the reservation was proclaimed Kootenay National park.



Stoney Indian





On the Roof of the World

## CHAPTER 2

### BANFF PARK

Farther than vision ranges,  
Farther than eagles fly,  
Stretches the land of beauty,  
Arches the perfect sky,  
Hemmed through the purple mists afar  
By peaks that gleam like star on star.

—Pauline Johnson.

The Banff Park is the oldest, second largest and best known of the National Parks of Canada. The first reservation was made in 1885, the year of the completion of the Canadian Pacific Railway across the mountains. With the discovery by railway engineers of the valuable Hot Springs at Banff, the Government was at once confronted with the question: should it lease to private parties the rights to the springs or should it control and operate them itself? It decided on public control and a reservation of ten square miles was made to ensure that the surroundings should be in keeping with the Government's plan to make this a first-class resort. Shortly afterwards a special party of parliamentarians went over the new line. So much were they impressed with the beauty of the scenery and the wonderful possibilities of the region that it was decided to create a

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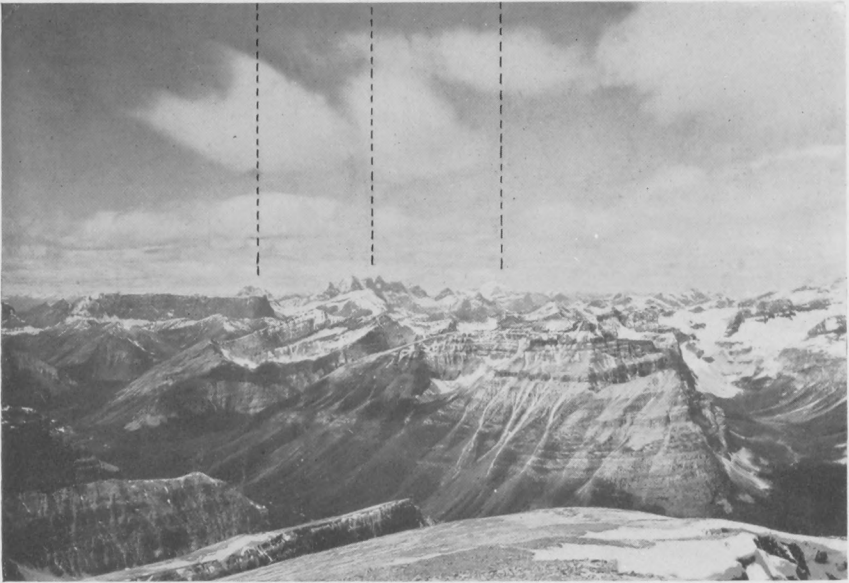
## BANFF PARK

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national park of 260 square miles so that the public should always have access to this incomparable region. The debates in Parliament in 1887 when the first Rocky Mountains Park Bill was under discussion make interesting reading. They show that even then the future value of such a park had been realized.

In the year 1902 the park was enlarged to 5,000 square miles. Under the Forest Reserves and Parks Act of 1911 it was reduced to 1,800 square miles but for game protection purposes it was recently enlarged to its present dimensions of 3,834.5 square miles.

THE HELMET, MT. GOODSIR, MT. VAUX



Typical View of Rockies from a High Peak—View west from Storm Mountain

The mountains of Banff Park reveal two distinct formations, with the line of division in the neighbourhood of Castle mountain. To the east the term "sea of mountains" is particularly appropriate. The ranges rise one behind the other in parallel lines, sloping gently up on the west and breaking sharply off at the crest of the range like the waves of a sea. They are formed for the most part of rugged grey limestone, the strata being sharply inclined or even turned almost on end. West of Castle station the rock has been lifted straight in the air so that the strata lie horizontally. Here the mountains take more massive, block-like forms with pyramidal or dome-shaped heads.



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## APPROACH FROM THE EAST

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### APPROACH TO BANFF PARK

I break the spirit's cloudy bands,  
A wanderer in enchanted lands,  
I feel the sun upon my hands;  
And far from care and strife  
The broad earth bids me forth, I rise  
With lifted brow and upward eyes,  
I bathe my spirit in blue skies,  
And taste the springs of life.

—Archibald Lampman.

Undoubtedly the best way to approach the Rockies for the first time is from the east. The dramatic glimpse of that far-flung line of blue after the vast expanse of level prairie is an experience never to be forgotten. Leaving Calgary, the ancient valley through which the milky green, glacier-born waters of the Bow tumble down to the plains is the route for both motor road and railway but the traveller by the road obtains the finer views. From Calgary itself or any of the high hills surrounding it one may see on a clear day, far away to the west, hung among the clouds and quivering in the warm summer air, a long irregular blue line, like a jagged knife blade, with a glistening white crest. It is the Rockies, sixty miles away. Remote, dim, ethereally lovely, they hang among the clouds, unsubstantial as the clouds themselves. At first sight they seem to belong to another world, like the vision of the celestial city seen by the Dreamer of Patmos. One imagines how they must have appeared to Pierre de la Verendrye, the first white man to look upon the Rockies in 1743. With what a "wild surmise" must he, who had thought to find the China sea, have looked upon that ragged sky line stretching all across the west. Romance and adventure beckoned to him from the blue distance as they do to us to-day. Owing to the defection of his Indian guides, however, he had to turn back leaving the mountains unexplored.

With every westward mile the mountains grow bluer, the snow-peaks whiter, the sense of enchantment deeper. The road passes through the great ranching country and among the rounded grassy knobs that form the foothills, and gradually approaches the great front door of the Rockies. Slightly inclined from east to west rises the massive barrier which for so long shut off communication between the Pacific and the plains. Devils Head (9,175 feet) a strangely shaped peak, one of the guardians of lake Minnewanks, stands out prominently to the right. A few miles before the entrance to the Banff Park is the Morley Indian reserve, home of the Stonies, a peaceful Indian tribe, who may be seen in their old time glory once a year at their annual games at Banff.

Now the great grey escarpment of the mountains, 2,500 to 3,000 feet high, rises up naked as a wall. The eye searches in vain for any opening in the barrier. There are, in fact, three gateways from the plains: Devil's Gap, a few miles to the north, Kananaskis Gap and the

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## BANFF PARK

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Bow Gap, a water gate, through which railway and motor road enter. A sharp turn in the road reveals the opening—

"A mighty cleft within the bosoming hills,  
A narrow gateway to the mountain's heart."

Passing through the narrow postern the visitor is at once in the mountain world.

FROM THE GAP TO BANFF.—Up to this point the river has been following a transverse valley cut across the ridges. Now it makes a sharp turn about the base of Grotto mountain and enters the long valley between the Fairholme range to the right and the Kananaskis to the left. One is among the great peaks already, Wind mountain (10,100 feet), Pigeon mountain (7,845 feet) and the Three Sisters (9,744 feet) stand out prominently almost as soon as the entrance is passed. Near the little mining town of Canmore one gets the first glimpse of the Hoodoos, queer eroded pillars carved in the glacial silt. These natural monuments often take strange shapes and suggest the crude attempts of some savage artist to represent his primitive



Hoodoos near Banff

gods. They were regarded with much superstition by the Indians and to this day the Stoney gives the Hoodoos a wide berth. Near Anthracite the Bow river flows through deep beds of glacial silt, and here more hoodoos may be seen. The top of the Anthracite hill affords a splendid panorama of the district with the grey old bulk of Cascade just ahead, Inglismaldie (9,685 feet) prominent to the right, and the long serrated spine of mount Rundle (9,665 feet) to the left. A few miles farther on the road passes the animal paddocks, fenced enclosures in which are seen the shaggy buffalo — deposed monarchs of the plains — statuesque elk, deer, goat, and those long-haired bolshevists of the

animal tribe, the yak. A short run of a little over a mile brings the visitor to the town of Banff, headquarters of the park.

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## BANFF AND THE BOW VALLEY

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### BANFF AND THE BOW VALLEY

There is a land of dream,  
I have trodden its golden ways;  
I have seen its amber light  
From the heart of its sun-swept days;  
I have seen its moonshine white  
On its silent waters gleam—  
Ah! the strange, sweet, lovely delight of the valleys of Dream.

—Fiona Macleod.

Banff has been synonymous with beauty in the hearts of nature lovers for many years. Few places are so ideally situated. It nestles in the green valley of the Bow in a wide circle of lofty and beautiful



The Bow River Falls, Banff

mountains. The Bow river, after frisking madly down from Castle in a series of rapids, quiets down a few miles above Banff into the sedatest of streams, widening out into little lakes and flowing with so leisurely a motion that its waters hold in their mirror-like depths another and even more beautiful mountain world. A little past the Bow bridge the river quickens its pace and, breaking into a series of rapids, runs between a narrow rocky gorge for about half a mile, then leaping in a beautiful cloud of spray, it falls 50 feet almost opposite Banff Springs hotel. Turning to the east it sweeps around the base of Tunnel mountain, takes the lighter waters of the Spray into its embrace and, trailing their mingled volume like a blue scarf about a little wooded island floating frigate-wise in the middle of the stream, it winds eastward to the plains.

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## BANFF PARK

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While none of the peaks is truly alpine in character several rise to over 9,000 feet, or more than a mile above the valley floor. The mountains for the most part are formed of pearly-grey limestone, the summits often bare of timber for one or two thousand feet, while the lower slopes are covered with what at a distance appears to be olive-green moss but which on closer inspection is seen to be pine forest.

It is hard to describe the charm of Banff but impossible not to feel it. It is a charm compounded of so many elements. The beauty of the scenery, the clear sunshine, the life-giving air, the glorious blue of the sky, the cosmopolitan atmosphere—all these are part of it but yet they hardly explain the glamour and fascination of this "little town nestled among the hills." It has an atmosphere all its own—a sort of embodied play-spirit to which one insensibly yields. It is as if a fairy gateway had opened into an enchanted country. The sordid cares and anxieties brought from an outside competitive world drop away like Christian's burden at the sight of the Delectable Mountains. One gives himself up to the spirit of the place realizing that after all "living, not getting a living" is the true end of life. Every vista forms a harmony so perfect that it satisfies the heart's most secret longing for beauty, for size and colour and line and mass. Measured with the tremendous proportions of the mountains man is a mere insect, but instead of feeling his insignificance he realizes with a sort of exultation that this is his proper setting, that the mountains are no higher than his aspiration—fit symbols of his "Babylonian heart."

Perhaps one of the reasons why so many people love Banff is because they find there such a number of things to interest and amuse. Banff has an infinite variety of attractions and she knows how to please each of her lovers in his own way. For the botanist, geologist or student of wild life she offers the opportunities of an unequalled outdoor school. The sportsman finds golf, tennis, boating, swimming, excellent roads for walking, riding, driving or motoring. For the lover of nature there are scores of infinitely lovely districts—more than he could possibly exhaust in a single season—accessible by road or trail.

VIEW FROM BOW BRIDGE.—One of the spots where everyone lingers at Banff is the bridge across the Bow. In early summer the river is turbid with silt carried down by the spring freshets, but as the season wears on this gradually disappears and the water settles to a wonderful greenish-blue, shot with amethyst shadows. All around is the great circle of peaks which shuts in the valley. To the north may be seen Cascade mountain, sitting like a grim old idol above the town. This mountain was formerly named Stoney Chief, while the smaller mountain to the left is Stoney Squaw. To the left of Cascade is mount Norquay, called after a distinguished son of Canada, a former premier of Manitoba who was among the first visitors to Banff. To the north-west is the rugged outline of the Sawback range. Far to the west stands out the snow-crowned head of Pilot mountain, the chief peak of the Massive range on which at certain seasons of the year the outline of a recumbent figure suggesting the Duke of Wellington may be clearly



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## CLIMATE

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described. The wooded slopes of Sulphur mountain wall in the whole valley to the south, while the great mass of mount Rundle closes the arc. This mountain, inseparably associated with all memories of Banff, was named in honour of that first missionary to the Stonies, who did so much to raise their standard of living, and who is still cherished in their hearts. "Poor he came among us," they say, "and poor he went away, leaving us rich."

THE TOWN ITSELF.—Banff has a permanent population of 2,000, which is increased during the summer to about 6,000. As a government townsite it possesses many advantages not usually found in a town of its size. The streets are broad, well kept and well lighted. It has a fine hospital, four churches, a good school and High school and the best water supply in the Dominion. It has two banks, a newspaper, a theatre and a number of stores. The office of the superintendent of the park is in the Museum building on Banff avenue at the north end of Bow bridge.

### CLIMATE

It is impossible not to dilate and expand under such skies. One breathes deeply and steps proudly and if he have any of the eagle nature in him it comes to the surface then.—Burroughs.

Banff, with an altitude of 4,538 feet above the sea, enjoys a climate in many respects ideal. The rarity and purity of the air has an effect as exhilarating as wine. Exertion of all kinds is easy but walking especially is a delight. There is little moisture and less wind. Electric storms occur infrequently and are not especially severe. There is a short brilliant spring which begins in April, followed by a three months' summer full of warm sunshiny days and pleasantly cool nights, with the long northern twilight which lasts till nearly ten o'clock. Although unfortunately few visitors remain for it, autumn is one of the most delightful of all seasons in the mountains. The air has then a tang of frost in it, the roads are in perfect condition for walking or motoring, the hills are gay with the bright yellows of the larches and poplars and the brilliant reds of the shrubs. Winter usually sets in about the middle of November and lasts till the middle of March, but even the winter at Banff is delightful. The mountain world, held like a sleeping beauty in the spell of the Frost King, seems to many lovelier than in summer. Clear sharp frosts followed by chinook winds create a veritable fairyland. Huge snow stalactites hang from the spruce trees; great snow mushrooms, 10 feet across, sprout from the stumps; snow wreaths of exquisite beauty gather in the still air on every bush and tree. The great peaks, snow-clad from head to heels, shine in the dazzling sunlight like the towers of some Celestial City, so that the eye can hardly bear to look upon them. The dry, windless atmosphere and sparkling sunshine make it a joy to be out-of-doors. The delightful description of Robert Louis Stevenson, the Beloved Vagabond of the Out-of-Doors in all weathers might have been written of Banff: "In the rare air, clear cold and blinding light of Alpine winters, a man takes a certain troubled delight in his own existence which can nowhere else be equalled."

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## BANFF PARK

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He is perhaps no happier, but he is stingingly alive. He feels an enthusiasm of the blood unknown in more temperate climates . . . . You wake in the morning, see the gold upon the snowpeaks, become filled with courage and bless God for your prolonged existence. The valleys are but a stride to you. You cast your shoe over the hilltops. Your ears and your heart sing. In the words of an unverified quotation from the Scotch psalms, you feel yourself fit 'on the wings of all the winds to come flying all abroad'."

### WINTER SPORTS

A carnival is held each winter which is attracting an increasing number of visitors. Only a little more organization is needed to make



Ski-ing near Lake Louise

Banff a winter sports resort equalling St. Moritz or Davos Platz. Of late years many Canadians who formerly spent their winters in the relaxing atmosphere of the South are beginning to realize that the tingling air of Banff sets the blood flowing in the veins, tightens the slack nerve strings and builds up a resistance which only the North can give. Even when the temperature sinks to zero the cold is scarcely felt and all kinds of winter sports can be indulged in with enjoyment. Ski-ing, tobagganing, snowshoeing, ski-joring, ice-boating and skating, followed by a warm plunge in the ice-fringed open air swimming pool, make Banff, in the opinion

of many, the finest winter playground on the continent.

### ACCOMMODATION

Banff offers hospitality to suit every purse and every taste. In addition to the large Canadian Pacific Railway hotel there are several smaller hotels in the town, comfortably furnished, modern in equipment and reasonable in price.

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## ACCOMMODATION AT BANFF

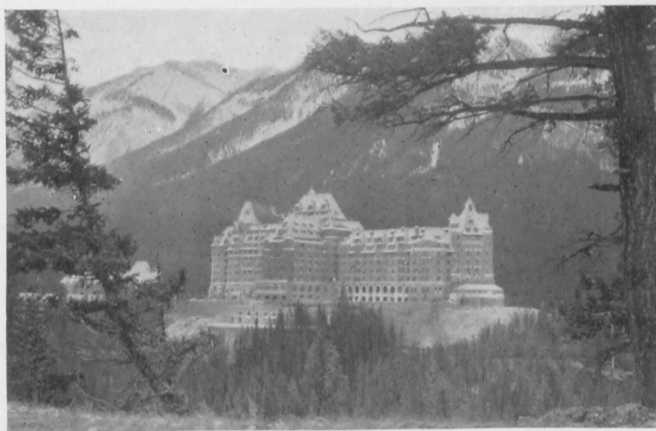
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A large number of furnished cottages are also available during the summer months. These contain all the necessities for housekeeping with the exception of linen. Rents range from about \$50 per month up.

The Alpine Club House, the headquarters of the Canadian Alpine Club, is the rendezvous for climbers during the season. Situated half-way up the wooded slopes of Sulphur mountain it commands a beautiful view of the Bow valley, and its friendly atmosphere and excellent chef are gratefully remembered by all who share its hospitality. In addition the club holds each year an annual camp which serves as a base for climbing and walking expeditions. For those who are athletically inclined this is one of the most delightful ways of becoming acquainted with the mountains. Particulars as to rates and membership can be secured from the secretary of the club at Banff.

GOVERNMENT CAMPSITE.—The Government campsite east of Tunnel mountain and overlooking the Bow river has become popular with those who prefer to live under canvas, and is one of the best equipped of the kind in the West. It is laid out on the plan of a townsite and for a nominal sum the visitor may obtain the right to a lot. Water and electric light services and free wood are provided and there are also free public shelters, campstoves and lavatories with stationary tubs for laundry purposes. The camp is in close proximity to the town and is served by first class motor roads. Permits may be secured from the superintendent at the Administration building or from the caretaker at the campsite.

THE BANFF SPRINGS HOTEL.—“The finest scenery in the world,” says Leslie Stephen, “is improved by a good hotel in the foreground,” and the saying is certainly true of the Banff Springs Hotel. It is one



Banff Springs Hotel, Bow Valley

of the finest and most luxurious on the continent, equally noted for the comfort of its appointments and the excellence of its cuisine. Its site, a European visitor recently remarked, is “sheer genius.” Perched on a sort of eyrie above the Bow valley, it commands one of the

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## BANFF PARK

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most glorious views in the world. Wide stone terraces lead down to two pools, the inner one, which is completely enclosed, is of hot sulphur water, the outer a perfect half circle of cold sulphur water inserted in the bright green of a lawn which drops away into sheer space. Below lies the wonderful Bow valley magnificently framed between the wooded slopes of Tunnel mountain and the huge wall of mount Rundle, the latter towering up a mile from the valley floor. And what a cosmopolitan crowd is that which gathers in the wide lounges or about the open fires in the hotel after dinner! One sees here distinguished scientists, travellers, explorers, statesmen, artists, sportsmen and visitors from practically every country under the sun. Tennis, water polo, swimming and diving in the warm sulphur pools, with dancing at night, add to the gaiety; the golf links are within easy distance; ponies and motors can be secured at a few minutes' notice, and when one is tired of more strenuous enjoyments it is sufficient to sit on the broad terrace and watch the sun sparkling on the wonderful green waters of the Bow, to see the cloud shadows drifting over the peaks, the blue haze gathering in the valleys or the little mists rising up the sides of mount Rundle and sailing off as clouds into the interminable blue.



Polar Bear cub in Zoo, Banff

### MUSEUM AND ZOO

Among the interesting things to be seen in the town itself are the Government Museum and Zoo. The former contains a very good collection of big game and smaller animals, as well as of the bird, fish and plant life of the region. Indian relics and examples of Indian handicraft, including some very fine embroideries, are also shown. All who are interested in the natural history and geology of the park are well advised to pay an early visit to the museum.

Along the banks of the river behind the museum is the zoo, where in large well-kept cages may be seen a most interesting collection of wild animals, including black, brown and grizzly bear, lynx, marten, wolverine, coyotes, wolves and other animals. Pat, the young Polar bear from Herschel island, is an object of special interest to children and the cage is always a centre of attraction at feeding time.

### HOT SPRINGS

If Banff had not become famous for its beauty it must have become so for its hot springs, but the two combined, together with its clear, bracing air, make it one of the finest health resorts on the continent. The springs, it is said, were known to the Indians long



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## HOT SPRINGS

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before the coming of the white man and there is even a story that old and rheumatic grizzlies had discovered that these warm waters eased the ache in ancient bones. Be that as it may the existence and value of these springs was one of the first things discovered on the opening up of the mountains. The Cree Indians, who inhabited the Bow Valley up to the year 1845, when they are said to have been driven out by the more powerful Stonies, must have known of the springs, although they were apparently ignorant of their medicinal qualities, regarding them rather with superstitious dread. The Rev. R. T. Rundle, who spent several years among the Stoney Indians and camped in the Bow Valley in 1841, probably also knew of their existence, although he left no record of the fact. In 1860 the Palliser Expedition visited the district and record in their report the presence of warm mineral springs near their camping place at the angle of the valley.

When the line for the Canadian Pacific Railway was being put through the springs became talked about and several claims were later made as to first discovery. The first to enter the Cave seem to have been a party of surveyors who observed a column of steam rising from the mountain on the opposite side of the Bow Valley. Crossing the river by a rude raft of trees, they found that the steam was issuing from a vent in the mountain side large enough to admit the body of a man. A rough ladder of pine poles was hastily constructed and squeezing down the narrow passage the most adventurous descended into the steaming darkness below. A lighted torch revealed a cave about 40 feet across, the floor of which was occupied by a natural pool fed by a subterranean spring which had worn an outlet through a small tunnel at the side.

The discovery of the Cave spring was soon followed by that of the Upper springs and latter by the Kidney and Middle springs. These five springs are all hot springs as distinguished from thermal springs, that is, they issue from the ground the year round with a temperature of over 90 degrees F. The chief constituents of the waters are calcium sulphate or gypsum, calcium bicarbonate and magnesium sulphate, while sodium and potassium chlorides and sulphates, strontium and iron bicarbonates occur in smaller quantities. They are thus very similar in composition to the famous springs at Bath, England. Greater interest, however, attaches to the fact that the Banff springs have been found to possess a high degree of radioactivity. As is well known in recent years scientists have begun to consider whether the presence of radium in mineral waters is not the most important factor in their therapeutic value. It was observed that many existing springs famous for their healing qualities contain no unusual constituents to account for their beneficial effects. Artificially prepared radioactive waters on the other hand were found to cause a multiplication of the red blood cells, stimulation of the digestive processes and increased elimination of uric acid. This appeared to give a clue to the possible source of the therapeutic value of many well known springs. Prominent scientists, among whom were Sir James Dewar and Sir William Ramsay, who investigated the historic Bath springs, demonstrated the presence of

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## BANFF PARK

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helium, argon, krypton and zenon, the rare gasses of the atmosphere and showed that they were the richest in radium and radium emanation of any spring in Great Britain. An analysis of the Banff springs made in December, 1916, by R. T. Elworthy, B.Sc., of the Department of Mines, demonstrated that the composition of the gases in the Banff waters was practically identical with the Bath springs, although the radioactivity was not quite so high. The Banff springs are among the most important in this respect to be found on this continent.



The open air hot sulphur pool is one of the most popular spots in Banff

The total flow of the five chief springs at Banff was found by this test to be about 40,000 gallons per hour, or approximately 1,000,000 gallons per day. As the test was made in winter and the flow is considerably higher during the spring and summer it is calculated that the yearly outflow is in the neighbourhood of 2,000,000 tons per year.

**THE UPPER SPRING.**—About 2.25 miles from Banff by a road which winds up Sulphur mountain through straight lines of lodgepole and jack pine is the Upper spring, situated about 500 feet above the valley. This is the warmest of the five springs, having a temperature of 115 degrees F., and it is here that most of the invalids seeking the benefits of the Banff waters come. In early days a rude sanitarium was erected at the springs and one of the interesting sights on the adjacent hillside was the testimonials left by grateful sufferers as to the efficacy of the cure. Sometimes these were a discarded cane or crutch, sometimes a rough board bearing a record in prose or doggerel verse of the patient's healing. Many of these read like the accounts of a miracle. "I had to be carried up to the springs," said one of these, "could not bear even the motion of a carriage. I had not walked for

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## CAVE AND BASIN

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two years, and every moment was an agony. In three weeks after coming here I walked down to Banff, and in five I ran a foot race. Praise God." "I threw away the crutches I had used for four years," said another of these testimonials to the healing of the springs, "after I had been here ten days. I walked with a stick for two weeks, and then threw that away too." "A month after I began to take the baths," says another, "I climbed to the top of Sulphur mountain. For five years before then I had not been able to walk without a crutch." Unfortunately this early sanitarium was burned down several years ago and with it were destroyed these unique and touching testimonials.

The spring rises on the mountain side and the flow, which is over 800 gallons per minute, is carried down to the Government Bath-house about 100 feet below. This is a small but completely equipped establishment containing hot tub baths, steam-rooms, hot and cold shower baths, sweat rooms and a large swimming pool. The temperature of this pool is high even in winter and it is a common sight to see bathers enjoying a comfortable outdoor swim in zero weather while icicles hang thick about the sides.

**THE KIDNEY SPRING.**—A short distance away on the hillside is another spring of smaller volume which is known as the Kidney spring. Its waters contain lithia and are considered to have special therapeutic properties.

**THE MIDDLE SPRINGS.**—A walk of about one mile up Sulphur mountain from Bow bridge by a good road leads to the Middle springs. They are well worth a visit if only for the magnificent view of the Bow valley obtained from this height. These springs have an estimated flow of about 6,000 gallons per hour and as yet are undeveloped. The water lies in natural rock pools, stained yellowish-white by sulphur and containing myriads of the tiny water plants known as algæ. The vivid greens and purples of these cryptogamic plants give the pools an almost sinister look. The spirits which haunt these subterranean born waters, one feels, must be very different from those which guard the cold and crystalline lakes. One peeps into the narrow half-cave from which the spring issues. Who knows! perhaps it may be the haunt of the Under-water people whose drums are still heard by the Indians on spring nights. All around the edge of the cave may be seen little piles of dry grasses, but these are probably only the work of the Pika, the little chief hare of the mountains, called the Haymaker from his habit of piling up grass to dry for food. With his usual sagacity, he seems to have discovered that this little steam-heated apartment makes a comfortable home.

**CAVE AND BASIN SPRINGS.**—The Cave and Basin springs are situated on Cave avenue about one mile west of the town. Here the Government has erected one of the finest public bathing establishments on the continent. The building is of re-enforced concrete faced with native blue limestone, which harmonizes admirably with the surroundings. Two belvederes roofed with red Spanish tile give the necessary note of colour.

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## BANFF PARK

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The swimming pool, 150 feet long and 35 feet wide, is the largest of its kind in Canada. Dressing rooms capable of accommodating 132 persons extend along the south side of the pool with two wide terraces above, where visitors may promenade and view the pool. The north side is enclosed by massive plate-glass windows which serve to shelter bathers from the wind and at the same time afford charming glimpses of the encircling peaks. For twenty-five cents one may have the use of a dressing room, locker, bathing suit and towels in addition to a bath. A comfortable sunroom furnished with easy chairs provides a place to rest after the exertions of swimming. It is no wonder that this is one of the most popular attractions in Banff and that it accommodates hundreds of bathers every day. The temperature of the water is about 70 degrees F. in the large pool and 90 degrees F. in the small natural pool.

THE CAVE.—The southeastern belvedere forms the entrance to the Cave, the first hot spring discovered at Banff. The natural passageway through which one formerly crawled in half darkness to the cave has been considerably enlarged and is now lighted by electricity. Passing through this rocky hallway the visitor finds himself in a small chamber roughly circular in shape, about 50 feet across and 30 feet high. The walls are of porous limestone, covered in places with fluorescent crystals. A pool of greenish-white water occupies a great part of the floor and the gases arising from it fill the air with a sulphurous steam. From an orifice in the roof a shaft of light falls through the darkness, with the effect of some mediæval picture, dimly illuminating the cave and revealing the constant agitation of the pool. Although unstirred by breeze or passing air, its waters are never still. Little waves ceaselessly lap the rocky rim, tiny shudders run across its face, great bubbles of gas tremble constantly up like sighs from its hidden depths. The water in the pool is from two to five feet deep but so clear that it seems as if every grain of sand could be counted in its bed. As the eye becomes accustomed to the half light, freakish bits of natural carving stand out on the walls—faces of gnomes and animals, a head which bears a strong resemblance to Joseph Chamberlain, another which, fitly enough in this sulphurous atmosphere, takes the form of Mephistopheles himself. Nearly 300 gallons of water per minute heated to a temperature of 85 degrees bubble up from the unseen source that feeds the spring. The overflow, which is conducted down the tunnel, serves constantly to renew the water of the large swimming pool in the baths.

THE BASIN SPRING.—Behind the cave is another spring flowing into an open pool about 25 by 40 feet, overhung by a rocky wall. This was the first swimming pool. The temperature of the water is 94 degrees, or 9 degrees higher than that of the cave which is cooled by the entrance of a stream of fresh water that drops down at the back. The floor of the Basin pool is of black sand through which the water can be seen constantly bubbling up. The overflow from this spring also feeds the big swimming pool.



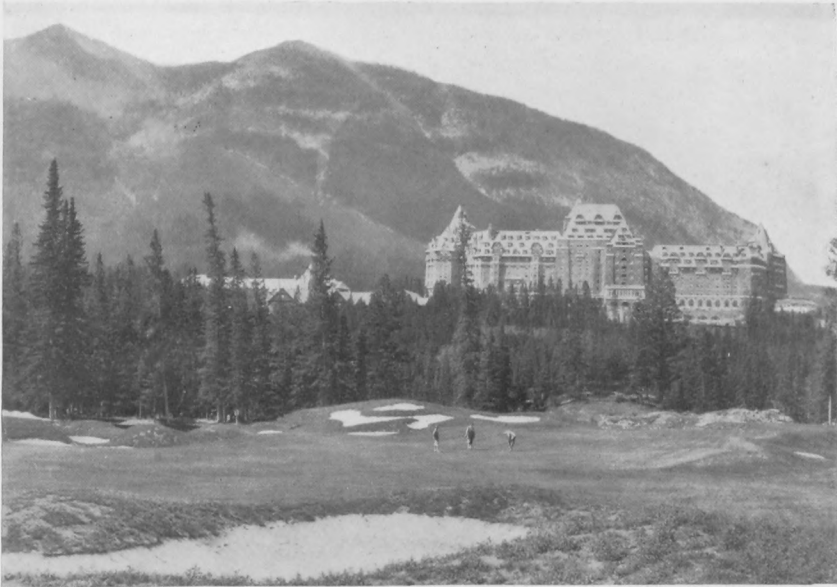
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## GOLF LINKS

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### GOLF AMONG THE CLOUDS

The golf links at Banff have an altitude of about 4,500 feet and the surrounding scenery is so glorious that one is furnished with a perfectly reasonable excuse for not keeping one's eye on the ball. The links are operated by the Canadian Pacific Railway, and their location is superb. They are situated at the junction of the Bow and Spray rivers with the first tee just below the terraces of the Banff Springs hotel. The great façade of mount Rundle rises directly from the right and the



On the Banff Golf Links

talus slopes at its base form the resting place of many a lost ball. High up on its ledges is frequently seen a band of mountain goats, detached spectators, apparently, of the game.

The course was originally a nine hole one. In 1920 an extension of nine holes was laid out by Donald Ross, the eminent golf architect, who has designed most of the famous courses in America, and in 1927 when the course was taken over by the Canadian Pacific Railway further changes were made. The course as completed is considered one of the finest on the American continent. A small but comfortable clubhouse meets the needs of visitors and dispenses afternoon tea accompanied by the most delicious of homemade bread and jam. A professional is in attendance throughout the season.

The clear bracing air of the mountains makes the game particularly enjoyable and tempts many visitors to linger on at Banff. On the wide terrace of the Banff Springs hotel a lady knitting with a composure which does not belong to the three-day tourist, said in reply to a question, "Yes, we came to Banff two months ago to stay two days but John started playing golf and we are here yet." The Prince of Wales on his trips to Canada also yielded to the Banff links and most of his time in the park has been spent on the course.

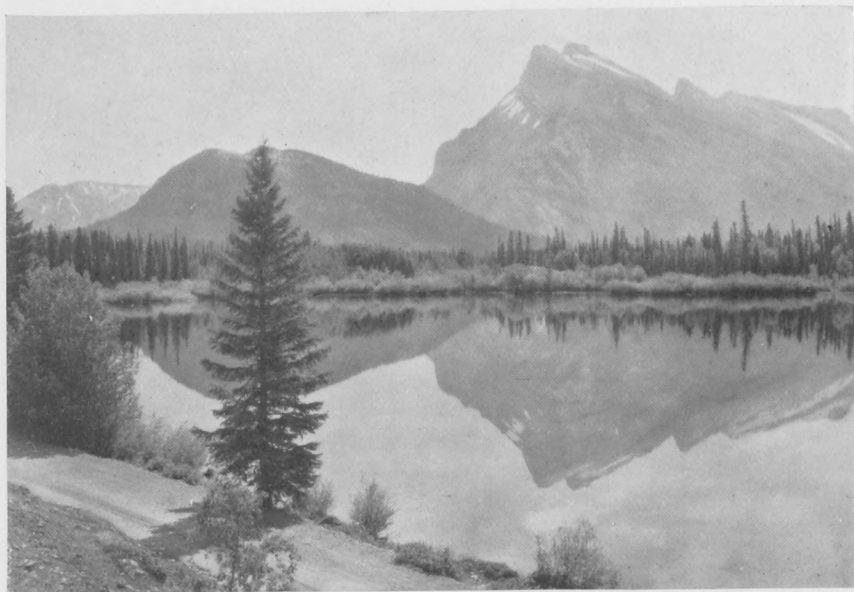
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## BANFF PARK

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### RIVER TRIPS

BOW RIVER NEAR BANFF.—In some European galleries a mirror-topped table is provided so that visitors may study the wonderful frescoes high up on the walls and roof. Nature, with her unerring instinct for the beautiful, has provided a similar mirror at Banff in the quiet reaches of the Bow river from Banff to about eight miles above. They not only offer delightful opportunities for boating but one of the best ways of viewing the panorama of peaks on both sides of the valley.



Mt. Rundle and Vermilion Lakes, Banff

“Imaged in a watery glass”

Rounding the base of Sulphur mountain the river winds between low banks bordered with overhanging willows and poplars, and affords constantly changing pictures of the magnificent entourage of mountains that mirror their great grey faces in the quiet waters of the little stream. To the right can be seen the sharply serrated outline of the Sawback range and the slim spire of beautiful mount Edith; to the left are the rear slopes of Sulphur and the great bulk of mount Bourgeau and the two other noble peaks of the Massive range, mount Brett and Pilot mountain.

The quiet restful beauty of this little trip makes it one of the most popular in the park. During the season launches leave the wharf west of the Bow bridge several times daily. Rowboats and canoes may also be rented by the day or hour.

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## RIVER TRIPS

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ECHO RIVER AND SHADOW CREEK.—Echo river and Shadow creek, the latter a tree-bordered shady waterway to the Vermilion lakes, offer pleasant opportunities for canoeing and a paddle up their cool reaches at any time of the day makes a delightful excursion.

UPPER AND LOWER REACHES OF BOW.—For the expert canoeist two trips that offer fine scenery, excitement and excellent fishing are the upper and lower reaches of the Bow. For the first a canoe may be shipped by train to either Castle station or Eldon and the run made from this point to Banff. In high water the trip can be done in a day but to do it justice it is better to take two or three days. A stop over at Redearth creek enables one to see the whirlpool and canyon and affords a chance to capture a gamey Cutthroat trout. Below is the "white water" of the rapids, a run which will test the nerve of even an expert swift-water man. For the lower trip a canoe may be taken below the Bow falls and the run made to the junction of the Bow and Kananaskis rivers at Seebee. This also affords swift water and sufficient thrills, as well as opportunities for fishing at some of the best trout pools on the river. As has been said these trips are for the expert; anyone else should enlist the services of a guide.



Virginia Deer







A Mountain Pass

### CHAPTER 3

## WALKS, DRIVES, CLIMBS AND TRAILS ABOUT BANFF

### WALKS

It requires a direct dispensation from Heaven to become a walker.—Thoreau.

One of the best ways of seeing any mountain district is on foot. In the Alps it has long been a favourite form of travel but in the Rockies until recently roads have been few and places of accommodation far between. The completion of the motor highway to Lake Louise, Field, and Golden has opened up new possibilities for the pedestrian since it is now possible to traverse the entire length of the park on foot and even to go on to Field, the Yoho valley and Golden. A delightful pedestrian tour could also be made over the Banff-Windermere highway. There are many points of interest along the way and several rest houses where meals and sleeping accommodation may be secured.

The Alpine Club of Canada is doing much to arouse interest in this form of travel. In 1920 the Club inaugurated a Walking Tour Camp, the first of its kind in the Rockies, near mount Assiniboine, which attracted nearly 300 persons. The intention is to make this camp a permanent institution and if successful later to establish other camps at interesting points in the park. Such camps should do much to revive the healthful art of walking, much neglected in these motor car days, and to re-establish in the mountains that "ancient order of walkers" which, as Thoreau says, is a sort of Fourth Estate, outside church and state and people.

FROM BOW TO SPRAY BRIDGE.—Long walks require that a person be vigorous and in training, but there are many delightful short walks about Banff that can be enjoyed by anyone moderately active. One of the most delightful—from the Bow to the Spray bridge—is only a mile long. To walk along this path early on a summer day when the river is unrolling itself in the radiance of the morning and every poplar

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## WALKS, DRIVES, CLIMBS AND TRAILS

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leaf is twinkling and glistening in the sun, makes one glad of mere existence. Every few feet brings a new picture, dominated now by Cascade, now by Rundle, and each one is a surprise and enchantment.

UP TUNNEL MOUNTAIN.—Another beautiful though longer walk is up Tunnel mountain. This will take from two to three hours. Tunnel is a wooded knob between mounts Cascade and Rundle. Geologists believe that it was once a part of Rundle, broken off in some cataclysm of nature. The road around the mountain climbs about two-thirds of the way up and from it a bridle path leads to the top. The road is open to motors but all who are fond of walking are advised to take it on foot or, as a second best suggestion, by pony-back. The views along the way and from the summit are magnificent. This is the most accessible point from which some conception of the glory of the mountain ranges can be obtained. The valley of the Bow as far as the Vermilion lakes to the west, the town itself, the slopes of Sulphur, the falls, the wooded valley of the Spray with Goat mountain in the background, the Bow valley to the east with a glimpse of lake Minnewanka and its surrounding peaks, all lie open to view.

SULPHUR MOUNTAIN.—The walk through the woods to the summit of Sulphur mountain is also much favoured. The distance is about six and three-quarter miles and the return trip may be made in from four to six hours. If desired motors may be taken to the Upper Hot springs and the rest of the climb taken on foot, a distance of about four and a quarter miles, or ponies may be taken the entire way. The path winds through the pine woods, passing the Alpine club-house and the Upper Hot springs. On the summit is the Government Meteorological Station, where observations regarding the weather are recorded. Here with lungs "filled with the winds of heaven" one gazes at a magnificent panorama, "the mountainous wrack of a creation hurled." With the exception perhaps of the Little Beehive at lake Louise there is no easily accessible point from which such an extensive view of the Bow valley can be obtained. From this point the wave-like, or "échelon" formation of the eastern ridges with their sharply uptilted folds is clearly visible, as are also the great snow-covered peaks to the west. The wide valley of the Bow, carved through glacial deposits of from 200 to 300 feet thick, is visible for miles with lake Minnewanka, Fortymile creek and the Vermilion lakes set like bits of looking-glass in the jade green frame of the forest. All around is a magnificent array of peaks with thrilling glimpses of the great snow-covered summits massed along the Divide.

CASCADE AND RUNDLE MOUNTAINS.—Good trails also lead up Cascade and Rundle mountains and ponies may be taken part way. These climbs may be made in about eight hours, but it is better to start in the morning, take a lunch and rest an hour or two on the summit. Mount Rundle affords a wonderful panorama of the whole district and especially fine views of the Fairholme range to the east and the Assiniboine group to the south with the white pyramid of mount Assiniboine out-topping the rest of the peaks. Cascade also makes a

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## SUNDANCE CANYON

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very fine trip and if desired ponies may be taken to timber line. Here there is a remarkable natural amphitheatre which looks as if it might have been formed for the sessions of the gods of the mountains. Indeed if these ranges have their presiding deities Cascade may well claim to be their Parnassus. A rather stiff climb takes one the remainder of the way to the summit.

Sundance canyon, the Spray Valley road, lake Minnewanka, the Ghost River valley, and Mount Edith pass are also favourite objectives for walks and there are many more extended trips possible if the party number two or three, if a pack pony be taken to carry supplies.

### DRIVES

Nearly 200 miles of roads radiate from Banff and, with the exception of the Spray Valley road, all of these are open to motors. The Spray road is reserved for the use of horses and riding ponies. It is one of the most delightful spots for a gallop in the park. The road skirts the Spray river among beautiful pines, affording fine views of mount Rundle and Goat mountain. It is open for seven miles to the old lumber camp.

For the motorist with sufficient time at his disposal there are three fine trips: the motor highway to the eastern boundary of the park, a distance of about 32 miles; the same road west over Vermilion summit to Sinclair Canyon or what is now known as the Banff-Windermere highway; and the extension road to lake Louise and the Great Divide. All these trips should if possible be taken.

There are also a number of drives about the town: up Tunnel mountain; the Loop about the golf links, passing the Hoodoos; the drive to the Upper Hot springs, a spot which affords a particularly fine view of the Bow valley; to the Cave and Basin and on to Sundance canyon; and to lake Minnewanka, passing the buffalo paddock. Along the motor road west, Mount Edith pass, Johnston canyon and Marble canyon are also favourite objectives.

SUNDANCE CANYON.—Sundance canyon is a wild and romantic spot about four miles west of the town. The origin of the name is uncertain. Some authorities claim that it is derived only from the sparkling of the sunshine on the leaping water, while others say that in former times this was the site where the Indians held their sacred festival, the Sun Dance, the ordeal of courage through which the young braves were initiated into the tribe.

The canyon is a huge crack in the limestone formation through which the stream, half-hidden at times beneath enormous boulders, finds its way, leaping in little cascades from step to step but never attaining the dignity of a waterfall. Ralph Connor, the novelist, who once filled a pastorate at Banff, refers to this spot in one of his well-known books, and the wild charm and lonely beauty of the place make it a favourite resort with all who come to know Banff well.

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## WALKS, DRIVES, CLIMBS AND TRAILS

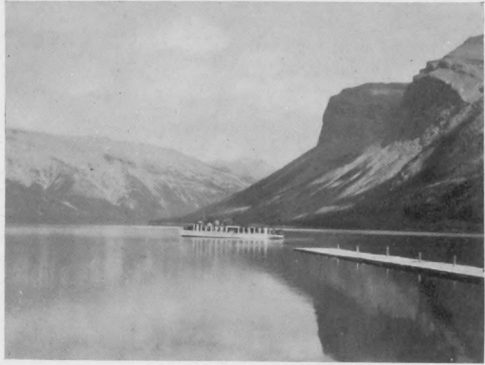
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**LAKE MINNEWANKA DRIVE.**—Lake Minnewanka (4,800 feet), about eight miles from Banff, is a beautiful sheet of water lying in a deep valley between high mountains. The drive to the lake is very pleasant, passing the buffalo paddocks, skirting the base of Cascade mountain and passing through Bankhead, a small mining town notable as the place where “briquettes”—a form of fuel much used in the west—are manufactured. Mount Inglismaldie (9,715 feet) is prominent to the right. Beyond, the road follows the gorge of the Cascade river, a capricious, turbulent stream which, after cutting a gorge through a veneer of morainal debris and 30 feet of rock, caps its waywardness by flowing into lake Minnewanka, only to flow out again within a few hundred yards.

The lake is what Scherzer calls a “leaf-shaped” lake. It is about 13 miles long, never more than two miles wide and is formed like the letter S. Its greatest beauty lies in the wonderful blue of its waters, a veritable blue-bird blue which to many recalls the Mediterranean. Two small chalets provide accommodation for guests and large launches make several return trips up the lake daily. This is one of the most popular fishing spots near Banff, famed as being the home of the “Minnewanka trout,” the largest fish found in park waters, specimens of which have been taken weighing as much as forty pounds. Salmon trout, an introduced fish, may also be caught in this lake. Small boats are obtained at the chalet as well as the services of guides wise in the knowledge of the best fishing spots.

The name “Minnewanka” is from the Stoney Indian word for “Spirit Water,” and the legend connected with it says that when the Stonies first came to this district an Indian who was up on the mountain side saw the fins and back of a monster fish swimming in the lake.

To get some idea of its measurements he took out his hunting knife and held it out in front of him as a gauge. Both the head and tail projected beyond the knife. This would make the fish about a mile long, rivalling the famous seaserpent. It was natural to conclude that such an apparition must be due to the presence of spirits. Whether the monster was ever seen again history does not relate. Certain it is the



Lake Minnewanka  
Showing “Gibraltar” rock to the right

lake has always been associated with stories of big fish. The Cree name for the lake is Muchimanitou-sa-gi-agun, literally “devil’s lake,” a name formerly in use but changed a number of years ago to the more euphonious Minnewanka.



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## LAKE MINNEWANKA

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Geologists believe that through the valley in which lake Minnewanka lies the Bow river once flowed out to the plains by way of the Devil's Gap. When the front ranges of the Rockies were uplifted the river took the easier way of the Cascade trough. During the whole glacial period the valley was occupied by a huge glacier which has left its marks on the mountain walls as it carved out the rocky basin some 300 feet deep in which the lake now lies. Traces of the tributary glaciers that filled the Bow and Cascade valleys are seen in the thick morainal deposit at the western end.

The trail along the north side of the lake was once an Indian highway and there is no place in the park so rich in Indian associations as the surrounding district. This was a favourite hunting ground of the Crees and later of the Stonies, although the Indian seems to have regarded the whole region with a kind of superstitious dread. The Devil's Head, that lowering summit, black throughout the year, which seems to gaze in all directions, always gave him a certain uneasiness. In early days votive offerings consisting of pipes, beaded pouches, tobacco and tomahawks were to be found on its ledges. Throughout the winter its sombre mass, black no matter how much snow might fall, owing to some peculiar rock formation, was a landmark to the Indians far out on the plains. A line drawn from Blackfoot Crossing, the old headquarters of the Piegans, Blackfeet and Bloods, just south of Gleichen, Alta., to the peak touched the Elbow about the present site of Calgary and many a brave and early traveller took his bearings from the fact.

The south side of the lake is guarded by mounts Inglismaldie and Girouard with mount Peechee rising up almost directly behind. To the north are mount Costigan and mount Aylmer (10,335 feet), the latter the highest peak in the Banff vicinity and one of the favourite climbs. A little more than half-way down the lake the trail branches off to Aylmer canyon, one of the most striking canyons in the park with walls ranging from 200 to 600 feet deep.

The open meadows near the lower end of the lake were formerly an Indian camping ground and here Sir George Simpson and his party, rested after passing through the Devil's Gap. Among the stories told him at that time by the Indians Sir George relates the following:—

The defile through which we had just passed had been the scene of an exploit highly characteristic of savage life. One of the Crees, whom we saw at Gull lake, had been tracked into the valley, along with his wife and family, by five youths of a hostile tribe. On perceiving the odds that were against him, the man gave himself up for lost, observing to the woman that, as they could die but once, they had better make up their minds to submit to their present fate without resistance. The wife, however, replied that, as they had but one life to lose, they were more decidedly bound to defend it to the last, even under the most desperate circumstances; adding that, as they were young and by no means pitiful, they had an additional motive for

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## WALKS, DRIVES, CLIMBS AND TRAILS

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preventing their hearts becoming small. Then, suiting the action to the word, the heroine brought the foremost warrior to the earth with a bullet, while the husband, animated by a mixture of shame and hope, disposed of two more of the enemy with his arrows. The fourth, who had by this time come to pretty close quarters, was ready to take vengeance on the courageous woman with uplifted tomahawk, when he stumbled and fell; and in the twinkling of an eye the dagger of his intended victim was buried in his heart. Dismayed at the death of his four companions, the sole survivor of the assailing party saved himself by flight, after wounding his male opponent by a ball in the arm.

### BANFF-WINDERMERE HIGHWAY

The motor road west from Banff is known as the Banff-Windermere highway. This road was opened for travel on June 30, 1923, and is the first motor route across the Central Rockies. From Banff the road proceeds to Castle where it crosses the Bow river and then forks, one extension going on to lake Louise along the Bow valley, the other ascending to the Vermilion Pass where it crosses the main range of the Rockies at an altitude of 5,416 feet. From this point it descends the

west slope then climbs again to cross the Kootenay range and descends to the Columbia valley. From this point one can make direct connections with the western states, southern California or, by turning north along the Columbia highway, return to Banff via Golden, the Kicking Horse trail and Field.



Johnston Canyon

Motor busses make the trip from Banff each day during the season as far as Marble canyon, about 35 miles from the town. The drive is very delightful and affords wonderful views of the great panorama of peaks on each side of the Bow valley. It also gives access to two of the most interesting canyons in the park.

**BANFF TO JOHNSTON CANYON.**—Leaving Banff the road crosses the railway in the vicinity of the station and turning to the left, skirts the beautiful Vermilion lakes with mount Rundle's familiar saddleback mirrored in their calm waters. To the northeast

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## BANFF-CALIFORNIA BEE LINE

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is the massive bulk of Cascade mountain, formerly called Stoney Chief, with Stoney Squaw humbly at its feet and mount Norquay a little to the left. The road follows the Bow valley, affording glimpses of the river, here a quiet, tree-bordered stream. On the right the mountains rise bare and lofty, forming a serrated crest so sharp that it seems to have been cut out of steel plate. About four and a half miles out the graceful head of mount Edith appears looking over a shoulder of the Sawback range. Near this point a flock of Bighorn sheep frequently



Along the Motor Highway

*'In that clear invigorating mountain air we dined with an appetite that kings might envy and on beds of balsam boughs sank at night into a ten fathom sleep beyond the gift of the most luxurious 'Ostermoor.'"*

disputes the right of way, affording excellent opportunities for the camera. Across the valley may be seen the rear slopes of Sulphur and the impressive bulk of mount Bourgeau, one of the three great peaks of the Massive range. Soon, on the right, Hole-in-the-Wall mountain appears with what seems to be a window in its side. This is a natural cave about 150 feet long and 50 feet in diameter at its mouth, carved in the mountain 1,500 feet above the valley. A few years ago a Masonic lodge conferred its degrees in this awe-inspiring spot. Soon the striking outline of Castle mountain looms up ahead dominating the vista to the west in the centre of the valley. Two miles before reaching Johnston creek the road passes through the Hillsdale hills, a beautiful park-like

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## WALKS, CLIMBS, DRIVES AND TRAILS

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area with low grassy hills, a favourite haunt of deer. Far away to the left on the Vermilion summit, showing between Copper and Pilot mountains, we catch a thrilling glimpse of mount Ball over on the Continental Divide, with its gleaming helmet of snow. Directly in front is Pilot mountain, so called because its curious thumb-like peak is a landmark for miles in all directions. It was the guide of many an early traveller in the days before the railroad. Coming in from the right almost opposite Pilot mountain is Johnston creek.

Leaving the motors the trail is taken up the canyon, a walk of a little over half a mile. So many persons visit the spot during the season that each year the path is worn away by their feet. Below tumbles the little stream, its waters so crystalline clear that they reveal every pebble on its tawny, sunflecked bed. The trail crosses and recrosses the canyon by means of flying rustic bridges. In some places the rocky walls are over 100 feet high and less than 20 feet apart. Potholes, high up on the sides, reveal the immense number of years the water has

been in action. At the upper end of the canyon the stream plunges in a charming fall into a rocky basin called the Twin pool. Above the entrance to the little natural tunnel which gives access to the pool is a curious bit of nature's carving. It is the head of a dog sculptured in the rock and apparently guarding the cave, the Cerberus of the canyon.



Castle Mountain

JOHNSTON CANYON  
WEST TO CASTLE.—From Johnston creek the road follows the Bow valley and the immense mass of Castle mountain soon becomes the outstanding feature of the landscape.

Castle mountain practically named itself. It is a giant fortress with walls a mile high on a foundation more than eleven miles long, complete with turrets, bastions and battlements. High on its rocky wall a natural drawbridge, portcullis and gateway can be clearly seen and it needs little stretch of the imagination to believe that the mighty doorway might be rolled back at any moment and a troop of mediæval knights and ladies come riding forth. There is a legend that this mountain is



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## CASTLE TO MARBLE CANYON

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the home of the Chinook wind, the little blind daughter of the South wind, and that she has been seen sometimes stealing down from its battlements to the prairies, seeking her lost parent and leaving spring behind her wherever her feet have trod. An interesting and little explored region containing a vast amphitheatre of ice lies on the other side of the mountain.

Crossing the river the main road turns to the south, the Castle-Lake Louise extension going off to the right.

CASTLE TO MARBLE CANYON.—Leaving Castle the road climbs by easy and sweeping curves to the pass. In a distance of six and a half miles an ascent of 700 feet is made but the gradients are so easy that the climb can be made without changing gear. Over 22 miles of survey were made before the final location of this section was decided upon. The actual highest point on the road (5,660 feet) is about three miles east of the pass where the road rises to secure a better location. Near the summit is "Castle Mountain Bungalow Camp," maintained by the Canadian Pacific Railway Company. From this point a wide and impressive view of the peaks is obtained with gloomy Storm mountain as the chief feature in the landscape. Crossing the pass at 5,416 feet, the road gradually descends, passing beautiful ice-hung peaks to the left, and in about 4 miles reaches Marble canyon.



Nearing Kootenay Crossing

MARBLE CANYON.—This interesting spot lies over a few hundred yards from the motor road and it will well repay the examination of every visitor. Marble canyon is one of the most beautiful canyons in the park, its walls formed by grey limestone through which run strata of white and greyish marble that have given the canyon its name. The sheer and narrow walls have been eaten down for over two hundred feet by the waters of Tokumn creek which drains Prospector valley and in some places the stream boils so far below as to be almost hidden. Part way up a beautiful flying

arch of natural rock bridges the narrow chasm and the imagination falters trying to compute the ages that have elapsed during which the

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## WALKS, DRIVES, CLIMBS AND TRAILS

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stream has eaten its way from this height down to its present bed below. At the upper end there is a fine fall of from 60 to 70 feet.

At Marble canyon also there is a charming bungalow rest camp where meals and sleeping accommodation may be obtained.

**MARBLE CANYON TO SINCLAIR.**—From Marble canyon west to Sinclair the road winds through a changing panorama of mountain grandeur, sometimes passing for miles through the green shade of pine forests then emerging to climb again along the ledges of the valley with extensive views of great peaks on either side. The road is one of the most successful pieces of engineering on the continent, so well constructed that fear is practically eliminated and so well located that every mile presents a new charm. Free campsites for motorists adjacent to good water will be found along the way. Eighty-four miles from Banff the summit of the Kootenay range is crossed and a little to the west the motorist passes lake Olive, which contains small but very edible trout. Dropping down again by wide hairpin curves it enters the narrow valley of the Sinclair, the mountains folding together until the road has scarcely room for its feet. Passing between the Iron Gates, impressive towers of red rock on each side of the valley, Sinclair Hot Springs are reached. Here a plunge in the hot sulphur water removes the dust and fatigue of the journey. Just beyond the Hot

Springs is the western gateway to Kootenay park where travellers are asked to register and where if they desire they may make use of a delightful little rest room. Here too there is another Canadian Pacific Railway rest camp and a small hotel and garage maintained under private management. A few hundred yards beyond Sinclair creek carves its way through a magnificent canyon which forms Nature's impressive western portal to this incomparable highway. Here the road leads out to the wide and beautiful valley of the Columbia, joining the old Columbia river road which may be followed north to Golden, B.C., or south to Cranbrook whence direct connection is made with Spokane, Wash.



Sinclair Canyon

From Fernie or Cranbrook the motorist may also turn east via the Crowsnest pass to Macleod or Lethbridge, Alta., visiting Waterton Lakes Park on the way.

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## CASTLE TO LAKE LOUISE

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CASTLE-LAKE LOUISE ROAD.—The distance from Castle fork to Lake Louise is only 21 miles and the run can be made in about an hour. The road is eminently worth taking not only because it gives access to one of the most beautiful regions in the Rockies but also for its charm along the way.

A mile west of Castle is the line of demarcation between the eastern and younger formation of the Rockies and the western and older. Here the "writing desk" mountains like Rundle, or the sharply serrated peaks such as the Sawback, give place to the massive "block" type. The outline of many of these masses is magnificent. They suggest sublime architectural creations as if some celestial Michael Angelo or Christopher Wren had wrought into stone the dreams of a thousand years.

CASTLE TO LAKE LOUISE.—Although the twenty-one miles from the Castle fork to Lake Louise Chalet can be comfortably made in an hour, a more leisurely journey should be taken among such magnificent scenery. With each mile the scenery grows more impressive as the snow peaks draw near. We are approaching the magnificent entourage of peaks along the Divide known as the Laggan group, a royal company of peers, the majority over 11,000 feet in height. Soon between Gothic roofs one catches a glimpse of the blue green of glaciers and the gleam of perpetual snow.

The Bow valley widens out and through its green floor the river "winds about and in and out," rushing down from the Divide apparently in a terrific hurry to get to the plains. Towering up to the left is sublime mount Temple (11,626 feet), out-topping every other peak in the park with the exception of Assiniboine. Seen from the Bow valley it is hard to realize its tremendous proportions unless perhaps a drifting stratum of cloud high above floats lazily across it, wreathing it to the amazement of the beholder only shoulder high and leaving its beautiful cone, whiter by several shades than the vapoury cloud scarf, sus-

pended in mid heavens as if by some magician's wand. To grasp properly the scale of dimensions upon which the Architect of the Universe has laid out the plan of this structure one must go to



Valley of the Ten Peaks

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## WALKS, DRIVES, CLIMBS AND TRAILS

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the valley of the Ten Peaks and view at close hand those tremendous walls carved into huge buttresses, or from the summit of Saddleback look down the 2,000 foot abyss to its base. As one gazes at its great walls, over 7,000 feet high, and the wonderful dome of glitter-



Mount Temple and Bow River

ing snow that crowns it, the noblest edifice erected by man seems a mere toy. Old when the temples of Greece and Jerusalem were unconceived, it still stands, a building "not made with hands, eternal in the heavens." Mount Temple was first climbed in 1894. The ascent is not particularly difficult and the panorama it affords of the myriad far-reaching peaks and interlacing valleys is truly glorious.

The jagged outlines of the Ten Peaks which guard Moraine lake, are soon visible to the left and just before reaching Lake Louise station one catches a glimpse of the lofty summits of Victoria and Lefroy. From the station the road ascends via the carriage road to lake Louise itself, "Pearl of the Canadian Rockies." This spot alone would be sufficient lure to bring a

motorist many scores of miles but the road has still other beauties to offer. An extension of nine miles more takes one to the wild and lovely Moraine lake in the wonderful and impressive valley of the Ten Peaks, and from this point the visitor may explore on foot the neighbouring Paradise and Consolation valleys, two of the loveliest valleys in the park.

From Lake Louise the new Kicking Horse trail may be taken to the Great Divide and the famous Kicking Horse pass, the route by which the Canadian Pacific Railway crosses the main range. From this point the road drops down the precipitous west slope to Field and Emerald lake.

### MOUNTAIN CLIMBING

"What does he know of mountains who only the valley knows."

"It is becoming more apparent every year," says Mr. W. D. Wilcox, the American author and climber, who has done much valuable exploration work in the Banff Park, "that this part of the Rockies is not only a great field for Alpine climbing in its strictest meaning, but undoubtedly the most extensive and interesting field



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## TRIPS FROM BANFF

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presented by any readily accessible range in the world. That such men as Collie, Stutfield, Woolley and Whympster have come over from England several seasons to climb here, that the Appalachian Mountain Club represented by Abbot, who lost his life on mount Lefroy, Fay, Weed, Thompson and others, and expert climbers such as Outram and Eggers, have found climbs that tested their powers to the utmost, or repelled all attacks, even under the leadership of expert Swiss guides, tells much about the real nature of the climbing."

CLIMBS AT BANFF.—While Lake Louise is the centre for true Alpine climbing, Banff offers a splendid field for the amateur and a good training ground for those who seek to do more ambitious work. Sulphur, Cascade and Rundle mountains are climbs within the attainment of every vigorous person and require no guide. Mount Norquay affords some good opportunities for rock work and is frequently climbed by members of the Canadian Alpine Club. Mount Edith, which has been likened to the Little Dru, at Montanvert, and mount Louis, two dolomite peaks, offer very interesting climbs but too difficult for the amateur. Mount Aylmer, near lake Minnewanka, is the highest peak in the immediate neighbourhood while the finest peak in the park, mount Assiniboine, is only 20 miles to the south.

### TRAIL TRIPS FROM BANFF

The visitor who leaves without having taken a trail trip has missed one of the chief joys of the Rockies. The traveller by the railway goes away believing he has seen the parks whereas he has touched only their merest fringe. Range after range of mountains as beautiful as those he has looked upon stretch away to the confines of the park, hiding equally wonderful valleys, canyons, lakes and waterfalls. These can be reached only by trail

and for those who can spare the time there is no way of seeing the parks to compare with a trip of this kind. For if one wishes to know the real



Nearing the Top

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## WALKS, DRIVES, CLIMBS AND TRAILS

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heart of the mountains he has to go off alone and live and camp among them. In the mountains, as everywhere else, "Pan does not come for the calling." He will seldom consent to show himself to a crowd of tourists. Those who put on the pilgrim's habit of khaki and corduroy, however, and travel to the holy land of the wilderness are practically certain to find him. There are over 700 miles of trails in Banff Park, a large part of which radiate from Banff. More than a score of trips may be taken and practically every one will yield good fishing, wonderful scenery and a glimpse into the heart of nature that will be worth more



Breaking Camp

Who hath smelt wood-smooke at twilight? Who hath heard the birch-log burning?  
Who is quick to read the voices of the night?  
Let him follow with the others, for the young men's feet are turning  
To the camps of proved desire and known delight.

—Kipling.

than many books. A list of licensed guides who will outfit a party for an expedition of any length and supply the necessary tents, ponies and other equipment may be obtained from the Government Information Bureau, Banff.

**THE MOUNTAIN PONY.**—When one comes to the question of trail trips the mountain pony deserves a word to himself for, if the camel be the ship of the desert, the pony is the mountain express. He is the only means of access to some of the most enchanting districts and let us hope he will long remain so.

"The cayuse," as he is familiarly called, is guaranteed to be "wise to the mountains and fool-proof." Born and bred in the mountains

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## GOOD FISHING LAKES

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he is a type all by himself, hardy, sure and clean of foot. In disposition he is wayward, inquisitive and about as far removed from altruism as can be imagined. He has, though, such a supreme regard for his own neck that one soon learns to trust to his sagacity. He can travel along a perilous ledge over a thousand foot precipice with a superb nonchalance that compels respect, admiration and at last confidence. He can climb like a mountain goat and slide down a mountain side like an equestrian toboggan, landing nine times out of ten without a scratch. He will carry his swaying pack burden through a hopeless tangle of forest and fallen logs or swim a mountain stream a few degrees above freezing. His wicked little rolling eye suggests that he may have "ways that are dark and tricks that are vain," but the majority of these ponies are so well broken that they can be ridden by anyone whether he has ever been on a horse before or not. If you happen to belong to the latter class, the guide assures you, "Sure, I've taken out folks that didn't know which end of a horse went first but we ain't ever had any accidents," and you find that you can trust him and the pony to see that you don't.

The origin of the mountain ponies is shrouded in mystery but it is believed they are Indian breed originally imported from Mexico or South America, probably a cross between the mustang and the horses introduced by the Spaniards in the conquest of Mexico. Smaller than the Indian horse of the prairie they are equally strong, untiring and fleet. Though only fourteen hands high they can carry a man or heavy pack with ease up the steepest of mountain trails and their hardy nature enables them to endure all sorts of weather in winter or summer. One of the most picturesque sights at Banff during the season is the departure of a pack-train for the wilderness. If the expedition is to last several weeks sometimes thirty ponies will be required, the necessary equipment being fastened in huge bundles to the broncho's back by the famous "diamond hitch," an ingenious combination of loops and twists of the rope said to be imported from Mexico, a trick which many outfitters in the early days paid \$100 to learn.

**SPRAY LAKES.**—One of the most popular trips from Banff, on account of the splendid fishing it affords, is that to the Spray lakes. The trail starts from Banff, following the wooded valley of the Spray to its fork. Here the trail divides, the right branch leading to the foot of the lower Spray lake, the left, over Goat pass between Goat range and the Three Sisters to the upper and lower lakes. The scenery along the way is fine and the fishing at the lakes excellent. Cutthroat and Dolly Varden trout run to a good size and practically everyone who goes in secures all that the law allows him to take, namely, fifteen fish per day. This trip can be made in from four to five days. The round distance is about 50 miles.

**KANANASKIS LAKES.**—An extension trip of about 23 miles takes one on to the beautiful Kananaskis lakes. These lakes are situated near the eastern boundary of the park and have long been noted for their scenery and their fishing. The Kananaskis river unites them and half way between the two there is a lovely waterfall. The upper lake is a beautiful

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## WALKS, DRIVES, CLIMBS AND TRAILS

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Upper Kananaskis Lake

body of water dotted with wooded islands and encircled by high peaks down which hangs the airy veil of a silver waterfall 1,000 feet in height. The lower lake is noted for its big trout, the largest and finest cutthroat in the mountains being obtained here. This trip takes about ten days.

**THE GHOST RIVER VALLEY.**—This is a trail trip which deserves to be taken much oftener than it is. The motor road is followed to lake Minnewanka and then the trail leads round the left shore of the lake, passing Aylmer canyon and out through Devil's Gap to the Ghost river, a distance of about 17 miles from the lake. The scenery is exceptionally beautiful and the curious feature of it is that the stream itself, like some of the fabled rivers of old, descends for a time to the lower regions, reappearing some 12 miles below. After the spring freshets the bed of the main river is entirely dry, the water following some subterranean channel for almost a dozen miles. The neighbourhood is also rich in fossils.

Several explanations have been given for the name "Ghost river," but the Indians themselves say it is due to the fact that many years ago there used to be a wild white horse running among these hills and though they tried repeatedly they never could catch him. They decided therefore that he could be nothing but a ghost. Those who know the Stoney's ability as a hunter are inclined to agree.

**TO MOUNT ASSINIBOINE.**—Another deservedly popular trip is to mount Assiniboine. This is the most famous peak in the park and the goal of all ambitious climbers. It may be reached by three different trails: by Spray valley and Assiniboine pass, by Healy creek and Simpson pass, or by way of Brewster creek and Assiniboine pass. In



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## TO MT. ASSINIBOINE

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1920 the Alpine Club of Canada held its first Walking Tour Camp at the base of mount Assiniboine and this has been made the permanent headquarters of the Walking Tour Camps.

Mount Assiniboine, 11,860 feet high, is the loftiest peak in the Banff park. From the top of Sulphur mountain on a clear day its beautiful pyramidal head may be seen towering shoulder high above the surrounding peaks and losing itself in the clouds. It was named after the Assiniboine tribe of Indians by Dr. Dawson, the distinguished Canadian geologist, who first saw its glistening cone in 1883 from Copper mountain and White Man pass. (The name Assiniboine in Indian signifies "stone boiler" from the practice of the tribe of cooking by means of hot stones dropped into a vessel of water.) But it is less the actual altitude than the difficulty of ascent which has given it its reputation. Its similar figuration, the prevalence of sudden storms and the numerous defeats of those who sought to climb it have caused it to be known as the "Canadian Matterhorn." Happily it has no such black list of fatalities to its credit as the Swiss peak.



Mt. Assiniboine

In 1893 Tom Wilson, the well-known mountain guide, visited the peak with R. L. Barrett. Two years later a party including Walter D. Wilcox, the American author, and other distinguished climbers, led by Barrett, made a circuit about the mountain and decided that it could not be climbed. In the three years 1899 to 1901, several parties accompanied by Swiss guides made the attempt only to be defeated. At last on September 3, 1901, Rev., now Sir James Outram, Bart., an enthusiastic English climber, accompanied by two Swiss guides, made the top after six hours and twenty minutes very hard work. In his delightful book, *In the Heart of the Canadian Rockies*, Sir James says:—

One at a time—the other two securely anchored—we crawled with the utmost caution to the actual highest point, and peeped over the edge of the huge, overhanging crest, down the sheer wall to a great, shining glacier 6,000 feet or more below.

The view on all sides was remarkable. Perched high upon our isolated pinnacle, fully 1,500 feet above the loftiest peak for

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## WALKS, DRIVES, CLIMBS AND TRAILS

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many miles around, below us lay, unfolded, range after range of brown-grey mountains patched with snow and sometimes glacier-hung, intersected by deep chasms or broader wooded valleys. A dozen lakes were counted, nestling between the outlying ridges of our peak, which proudly stands upon the backbone of the Continent, and supplies the head-waters of three rivers—the Cross, the Simpson and the Spray.

Far away to the northwest beyond mount Ball and the Vermilion range, we could descry many an old friend among the mountains of the railway belt—mount Goodsir and the Otter-tails, mount Stephen and mount Temple, with the giants of the Divide, mounts Victoria, Lefroy, Hungabee, and a host of others, a noble group of striking points and glistening glaciers.

THE ASSINIBOINE GROUP.—Four great groups of mountains lie in the southern portion of the park accessible by way of the Spray valley which have been attracting attention during recent years. The first of these is the Assiniboine group, dominated by Mt. Assiniboine, but including such other fine peaks as Mt. Eon (10,860 feet), Mt. Aye (10,640 feet), Mt. Magog (10,050 feet), Mt. Sturdee (10,300 feet) and the Marshal (10,465 feet). The first ascent of Mt. Eon was made by Dr. Winthrop E. Stone, President of Purdue University, Indiana, with his wife, on July 17, 1921, an achievement which it will be remembered was followed a few moments after by the tragic misstep which resulted in Dr. Stone's death.

South of the Assiniboine group lies the British Military group as yet largely unexplored but also containing a number of splendid peaks, Mt. Sir Douglas (11,174 feet), Mt. French (10,610 feet), Mt. Robertson (10,400 feet), Mt. Smith-Dorrien (10,300 feet). From the heart of this group flows the great Haig glacier, reported to be one of the finest in the Rockies.

The British Royal group lies outside the confines of the Banff park although access to it is by way of the Spray valley to its head-waters thence following the Palliser valley. The group includes Mt. King George (11,226 feet), Mt. Queen Mary (10,600 feet), Mt. Prince Edward (10,590 feet), Mt. Prince Albert (10,530 feet), Mt. Princess Mary (10,090 feet), Mt. Prince Henry (10,560 feet) and Mt. Prince George (9,450 feet). J. J. Wall writing of these as seen from the north says in the *Canadian Alpine Journal*, 1921-22: "I have seldom been so impressed with a new and previously unpictured group of peaks as I was with this great, almost perpendicular wall six thousand feet high." The French Military group, in the southwest corner of the park, also contains some very fine glaciers. Mt. Joffre (11,316 feet), is the highest peak, with Mt. Foch (10,430 feet) and Mts. Sarraill and Petain (each 10,400 feet) next in order of magnitude.

TO SIMPSON PASS.—Another good trip is that to Simpson pass, along the historic trail followed by Sir George Simpson on his journey around the world in 1841. The route leads in a southwesterly direction past the Cave and Basin, along the Bow river to Healy creek and along

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## TO TWIN LAKES

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the creek to the summit of the pass. The altitude of the pass is 6,914 feet, or 2,421 feet higher than Banff. It is a beautiful alpine tableland famous for its myriads of wild flowers. A souvenir of Sir George Simpson's famous journey was found here a few years ago by Mr. James Brewster, of Banff. This was the letters "G. S., 1841," carved on one of the trees in the vicinity of the pass. The letters were weather-worn but still plainly decipherable and a section of the tree containing them forms part of Mr. Brewster's interesting collection at Banff. This trip may be made in three or four days.

TO TWIN LAKES.—A short trip, which is deservedly popular, is to the Twin lakes. These beautiful little mountain tarns lie hidden among the peaks which guard the Continental Divide, in twin rocky basins carved out by the action of prehistoric glaciers. The scenery is wild and beautiful and the fishing is all that can be desired. The trail branches off from the Castle-Vermilion motor road about one mile past the Castle bridge. The trip to the lakes can be made in one day from Banff by taking a motor to the beginning of the trail or three days for the round trip allowing one day for fishing.

THE RED DEER COUNTRY.—A longer trip which requires from three weeks to a month is that up the Cascade trail to the Panther and Red Deer rivers, returning via the Pipestone to Lake Louise. This is a delightful trip through one of the wildest and least-known parts of the park. An extension may be made to the beautiful Clearwater lakes at the northern limit of the park.



Anemones







Hawk

## CHAPTER 4

### THE LAKE LOUISE DISTRICT

"That still perfection from the world withdrawn."

LAKE LOUISE.—From Lake Louise station (5,051 feet) an electric tram and a good carriage road runs three miles up through the forest to the lake itself, more than 600 feet above. The road lies between Tall pines, above which one catches glimpses of the noble heads of Temple and Lefroy, and, as one ascends, good views of the Bow valley and the peaks on its farther side. The air is cool and sweet with balsam and pine; paint-brush and fireweed dot the dark background with colour; a mad-hearted stream leaping from stone to stone in a wild rush to the valley adds the music of tumbling waters. Rounding a corner one catches a first glimpse of Victoria glacier and passing through the portico the full glory of the lake bursts into view. "I have travelled," says Sir James Outram in his charming book *In the Heart of the Canadian Rockies*, "in almost every country under heaven yet I have never seen so perfect a picture in the vast gallery of Nature's masterpieces . . . . As a gem of composition and colouring it is perhaps unrivalled anywhere. To those who have not seen it words fail to conjure up the glories of that 'haunted lake among the pine-clad mountains, forever smiling upward to the skies'."

It is indeed a canvas painted by Nature in one of her grandest moods. The lake is intense in colour but that colour is never the same for two minutes in succession. It sweeps the whole gamut of green, blue, amethyst and violet, undershot by marvellous tones of green and gold, constantly shifting and altering from moment to moment as if some magician were mixing his colours in its magic bowl.

The majesty of the picture is gained from the great sweep of the curve in front—a line that has been added by man—by the sheer wall of Fairview, the lofty snow-crowned head of Lefroy at the left and the darkly wooded slopes of St. Piran to the right. Between, rising apparently from the verge of the lake, but in reality 4 miles away, is the great bulk of Victoria with its huge benches of snow, some of them 200 feet

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## THE LAKE LOUISE DISTRICT

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deep. The mountain is so placed that for the greater part of the day it catches the full glory of the sun, névé and glacier standing out in a dazzling whiteness which is reflected in the blue lake below.

Lawrence Burpee, in his *Among the Canadian Alps*, says of lake Louise: "Year after year you may revisit lake Louise, and wander about its shores through all kinds of weather; you will never exhaust the

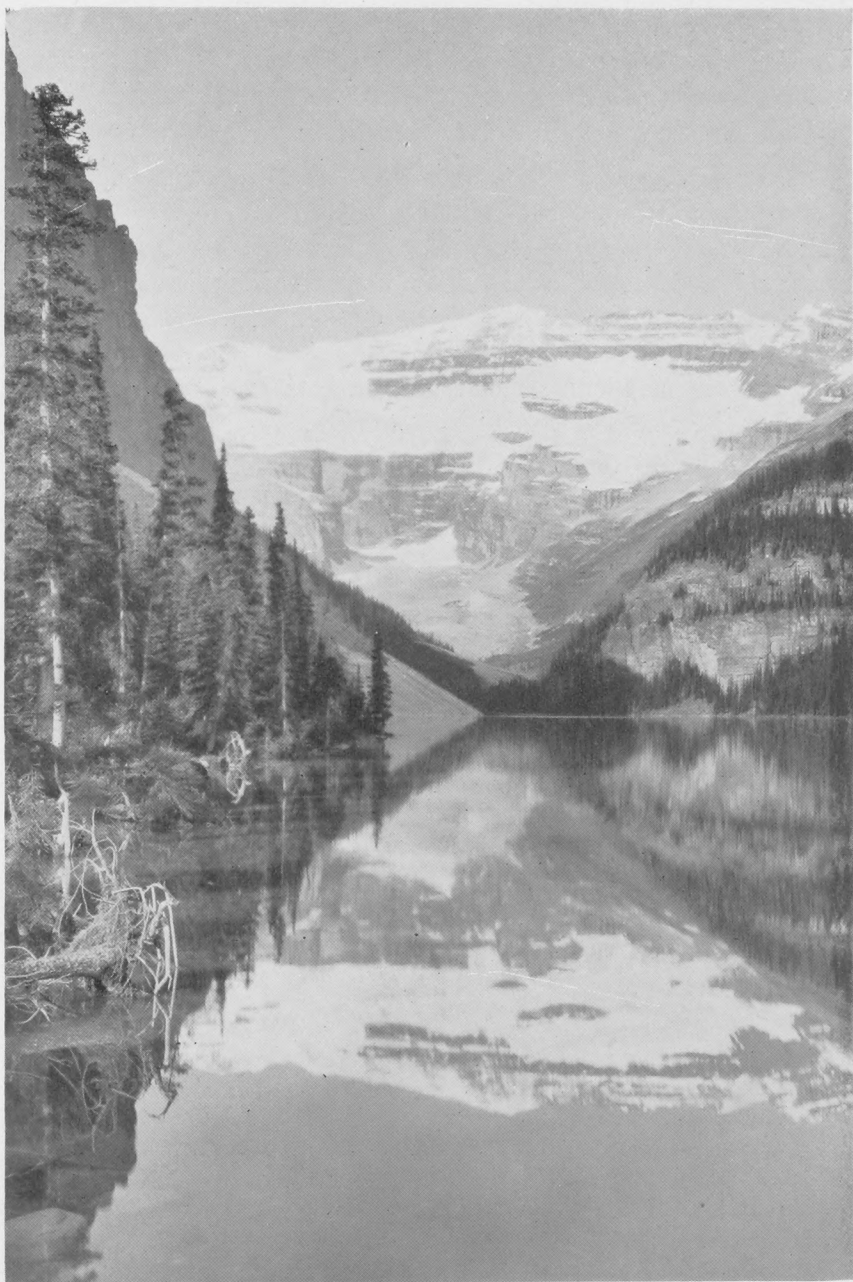


At Lake Louise

Watching the white smoke of avalanches that go thundering down from the glacier four miles away.

variety of its charms. It changes from day to day, from hour to hour, from moment to moment. It responds instantly to every subtle change of cloud, wind or atmosphere; it has one glory of the sunshine and another of sunset; it offers you one picture under the brilliant noonday sun, another under heavy clouds, another through driving mists, or rain or snow; but always incomparably beautiful, and always indescribable."

Connoisseurs in beauty place lake Louise among the seven most perfect landscapes in the world, but when such a height of excellence is reached comparison becomes valueless. The true lover of beauty finds something to admire in almost every landscape but sometimes nature does the thing so perfectly and on so grand a scale that even the dullest have to "pause and look and wonder," feeling dimly that Being inter-



Lake Louise

"Its waters are distilled from peacock's tails and paved with mother-of-pearl and into them rush those wild blues that are only mixed in the heart of glaciers."

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## LAKE LOUISE

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fused, "Beauty itself among beautiful things," which lies at the heart of the world. She has done this at Lake Louise. It has that pre-eminent quality which places it forever among the shrines of the earth.

Lake Louise is about a mile and a quarter long and less than half a mile wide. It was originally called the "Lake of the Little Fishes," a name given to it by the Indians with a singular lack of imagination, although the lake literally swarmed with trout. It was discovered in 1882 by Tom Wilson, of Banff, who called it Emerald lake but in 1884 it was named lake Louise in honour of the Royal Princess, wife of the Marquis of Lorne, then Governor General of Canada. The story goes that Wilson who was in camp near Laggan, heard one day the sound of an avalanche. Some Stoney Indians camped near by told him the sound was thunder from the big snow mountain above the lake of Little Fishes. The next day, accompanied by one of the Indians, Tom visited the lake and the wonder of the scene left him breathless. The Indian told him there were other lakes higher up on one of the mountains, one called "The Goat's Looking Glass," because the mountain goat went there to comb their beards. Among the first visitors to Lake Louise was Mr. Walter D. Wilcox, whose book *The Canadian Rockies*, has done so much to popularize the district. For several years a primitive chalet housed the few guests who visited it, but as the fame of its beauty spread the accommodations were extended, culminating in the erection of the present magnificent Chateau with its 385 rooms. The lake lies in what is known as a "hanging" valley, the bed, ages ago, of a glacier which flowed down into the more deepened valley of the Bow. The basin is of great depth, soundings which have been taken reaching nearly 250 feet. A thick layer of ancient moraine obstructs the valley's outlet, through which a little creek cuts its way. The temperature of the water is extremely cold, reaching only about 20 degrees above freezing point even in the height of summer. The intense colour of the lake is said to be due to its depth and to the presence of minute particles of rock dust carried down from the glacier. In early summer the water is a clear robin's egg blue, but in August and September it takes on wonderful tones of mingled green and blue suggesting the wing of a dragon fly. The character of the enclosing walls also deepens the colour.

The peaks encircling lake Louise from left to right are: Saddleback (7,993 feet), Fairview (9,011 feet), Sheol (9,118 feet), Aberdeen (10,350 feet), Lefroy (11,230 feet), Victoria (11,365 feet), Whyte (9,776 feet), Big Beehive (7,440 feet), Niblock (9,764 feet), St. Piran (8,691 feet), Little Beehive (7,100 feet).



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## THE LAKE LOUISE DISTRICT

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Boating, tennis, riding, swimming and climbing fill in the time at lake Louise. The days are warm and sunny but even in August the nights are cool enough to make the log fires burning in the large lounges very grateful. About these the guests gather in the evenings comparing experiences and relating the adventures of the day.

**THE LAKES IN THE CLOUDS.**—Rising to the right of the lake is a quaintly shaped peak appropriately called "The Beehive." Looking up from the lake one sees a bit of red fluttering from the summit. It



Lake Agnes—One of the Lakes in the Clouds

is the flag on the top of the little shelter, perched like an eagle's nest nearly 1,500 feet above. A good trail leads to the summit and for those who are incapable of making the climb on foot, sedate mountain ponies are waiting to carry even the most inexperienced safely to the top. This is a favourite afternoon's excursion with delicious tea and cakes served above the clouds at the end of it, but to the more energetic it is recommended as one of the finest

spots in the park from which to see the sun rise. On the way are passed Mirror lake (6,665 feet) and lake Agnes (6,885 feet). These little lakes are among the best examples of cirque lakes in the mountains and lie actually "above the clouds."

**VIEW FROM THE LITTLE BEEHIVE.**—The view from this point is beyond description. Says Mr. Wilcox: "I have never seen this glorious ensemble of forests, lakes and snowfields surpassed in an experience on the summits of more than forty peaks and the middle slopes of as many more in the Canadian Rockies." Strange as it may seem it is only from an eminence that one gains a true appreciation of the magnitude of the mountains and from this height the massive peaks of Fairview, Sheol, Aberdeen and Lefroy opposite enlarge and spread themselves to titanic proportions. Behind rise other giants, huge in outline and crowned with tremendous caps of eternal snow. Beyond lies the broad U-shaped floor of the Bow valley visible from Mount Hector to Castle station for over 30 miles, with the river, a mere twisted thread of silver, embroidering its green. Below, down the shattered cliffs of the Beehive, is little Mirror lake, and nearly 1,000 feet farther down, lake Louise a slender sapphire on the floor of the valley, with the Chateau set like a pretty toy at its end. It is a sight almost overpowering in its immensity and beauty and once seen it remains enshrined in the memory forever.

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## MORAINE LAKE

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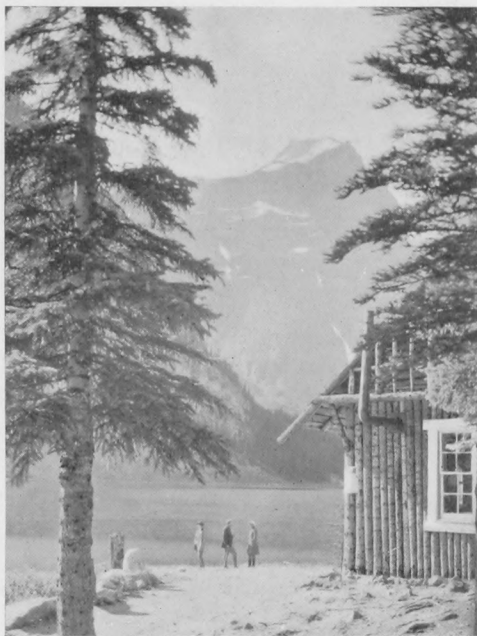
From Mirror lake a trail of about half a mile also follows round the face of the Beehive to Lookout point, or one may take another little trail from lake Agnes to the summit of the Beehive or mount St. Piran. From Lookout point there is also a trail of about one mile and a quarter along the mountain side which joins the lower Glacier trail on the right side of the lake.

CLIMBS AT LAKE LOUISE.—Two good climbs that may be made at lake Louise without a guide are to the top of mount Fairview and Saddle mountain, the two peaks that guard the left side of the lake. A good trail leads to the summit of each and both afford superb views, the former of the Bow valley and Bow range, the latter of Paradise valley, mount Temple and the fine group of peaks converging at the head of Paradise valley and the valley of the Ten Peaks. Each of these trips requires a good half-day.

For the experienced alpinist there are at least a score of peaks in the immediate neighbourhood of first-class importance and interest. Victoria, Lefroy, Hungabee, Temple, Pinnacle, Deltaform are all fine climbs, representing practically every form of rock, ice and snow work, and there are many others of equal interest. Full particulars as to routes and distances may be obtained from the Swiss guides who are stationed at the Chateau during the summer.

### MORAINE LAKE AND THE VALLEY OF THE TEN PEAKS.—

One of the most delightful short drives in the park is that to Moraine lake, nine miles from lake Louise. The return trip can be made by motor tally-ho in three hours, though it is worth devoting a day at least to this enchanting region. There is a tiny chalet at the lake where luncheon or afternoon tea may be obtained as well as limited sleeping accommodation. This is an excellent centre from which to explore the rich surrounding district but as the list of applicants often exceeds the accommodation, it is well to make reservations in advance.



At Moraine Lake Chalet

"Looking across the wild blue greens of the lake to the Tower of Babel and the silent majesty of the Ten Peaks"

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## THE LAKE LOUISE DISTRICT

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Leaving Lake Louise Chateau the road winds through the forest on a high shelf above the Bow valley, affording fine views of Saddle mountain to the right and the Bow range, mount Hector and the wide Bow valley to the left. Soon the massive outlines of mount Temple come into view and a little farther on the trail to Paradise valley is



The Ten Peaks

No scene has ever given me an equal impression of inspiring solitude and rugged grandeur.

—Sir Jas. Outram.

seen branching off to the right. Skirting the base of Temple the road swings round to the right and the tremendous semi-circle of the Ten Peaks is seen closing the head of the valley. A mile or two more brings one to the lake itself.

The combined beauty and majesty of this landscape cannot be put into words. In front lies the lake, exquisitely tinted in colour, its crystalline waters sometimes so still that they reflect every twig above its surface, or shattered into a million facets of light by some passing catpaw of breeze. Across its mingled sapphires and emeralds fall wide diagonal bands of shadow cast by the encircling peaks, shot through by the white gleam of reflected glaciers. The right shore is low with long swamp grass and willows and bright with flowers. The

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## PARADISE VALLEY

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lower end is obstructed by a thick band of morainal deposit left by the ancient glacier which once filled the bed of the lake. To the left, rising abruptly from the water and sweeping round the head of the lake as far as Paradise valley, is a tremendous semi-circle of rugged peaks with the Tower of Babel standing as a sort of outpost at their head. The Ten Peaks were originally named after the ten numerals of the Stoney language, but several among them now bear English names. Numbered from east to west the first is Mt. Fay (10,622 feet), the second, Mt. Little (10,303 feet); Nos. 3, 4, 5 and 6 are not named;

No. 7 is Mt. Tuzo (10,658 feet); No. 8, Mt. Deltaform (11,235 feet), the highest of the ten, owes its name to the resemblance to the Greek letter Δ. No. 9, is Mt. Neptuak (10,617 feet); No. 10, Mt. Wenkchemna (10,401 feet). Between 9 and 10 is the Wenkchemna pass, the route to Prospector valley, Tokumn creek and Vermilion river. Projecting down into the



The Giant's Stairway  
Paradise Valley

immense forces of nature have waged war against the savage strength of the peaks but though scarred the mountains are still unconquered. Tempest and thunderbolt have shattered and splintered their summits as if by a cyclopean hammer, avalanches have raked wide swaths through the upstruggling forest, and the glaciers have deeply scarred their ancient flanks, but they still lift their lofty foreheads 6,000 feet from the valley into the serene light of heaven, like "a council of eternal and immovable chieftains" seated under the blue tepee of the sky. Mr. W. D. Wilcox, with Tom Wilson as guide and Ross Peacock as cook, visited the lake in 1897 and gave it its name. In 1900 Wilson cut a trail from the lake to Lake Louise, and in that year he took Miss Agnes Laut, the well-known writer, and Mrs. Mathews of Banff, to the spot. They were the first white women to visit the lake.

CONSOLATION VALLEY.—Opening out to the southeast, hanging above the valley of the Ten Peaks to the left of mount Babel, is Consolation valley, another beautiful little valley which is well worth a visit. A trail north of the Tower of Babel leads to it from Moraine Chalet. Great avalanches have heaped up huge piles of rocky debris at its sides but the floor of the valley is green and smiling, with an abund-

valley is the tongue of Wenkchemna glacier, one of the five principal glaciers of the park.

The total impression at Moraine lake is one of extreme wildness and loneliness. With the exception of the little chalet there is no mark of man. The landscape retains the same primitive and original beauty which it has worn for 10,000 years. Here, through dateless centuries, the



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## THE LAKE LOUISE DISTRICT

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ance of alpine flowers. The glacial stream which drains it widens out midway into twin blue lakes noted for their fishing. At the head of the valley are the fine glacier hung peaks, mount Quadra (10,420 feet), mount Bident (10,119 feet), and mount Fay (10,622 feet).

PARADISE VALLEY.—Paradise valley, one of the loveliest valleys in the park, lies parallel to the valley of the Ten Peaks between mount Temple and the Saddleback and thus nearer lake Louise. It may be reached by a trail branching off from the Moraine lake motor road, or by the excellent trail which leads around the east side of lake Louise over the Saddleback. Another more difficult trail crosses Victoria glacier and passing between mount Lefroy and a quaintly shaped peak known as the Mitre (9,480 feet), skirts the Horseshoe glacier and so down to the valley.

The valley was discovered in 1894 by a small group of alpinists who, with Lake Louise Chalet as a base, were doing exploration work in the surrounding region. Among these was Mr. Walter D. Wilcox, who gives an interesting account of the incident in his *Canadian Rockies*. After several hours' trying experience on the Lefroy glacier, during which they had endured every kind of hardship and discouragement known to the mountaineer, they reached the summit of the pass, 8,500 feet above sea level, and this enchanting landscape was suddenly revealed. "A most beautiful valley," says Mr. Wilcox, "lay far below us. Throughout a broad expanse of meadows and open country many streams were to be seen winding, clearly traceable to their various sources in glaciers, springs and melting snowdrifts . . . This beautiful scene opened before us so suddenly that for a time the cliffs echoed to our exclamations of pleasure, while those who had recently been most depressed in spirit were now most vehement in expressions of delight." The name Paradise valley seemed the fitting expression of their feelings and it was so christened at once.

The valley is broad and U-shaped, about six miles long, carpeted throughout with flowers. Scattered groves of spruce and the beautiful Lyall's larch add to its park-like appearance. On the northwest the lofty sides of The Saddle (7,993 feet), and the black cliffs of mount Sheol (9,108 feet), a mile above the valley, rise up like a citadel wall. On the southeast is the great bulk of mount Temple with its wonderful glittering cone. To the south is Pinnacle mountain, its summit carved into numerous spires and pinnacles as exquisitely slender as those found on the roofs of a Gothic Cathedral. Sweeping across the head of the valley at the base of mount Ringrose and between Hungabee (11,457 feet), and Lefroy (11,230 feet), is the great Horseshoe glacier. To the west is the Mitre, shaped like a bishop's hat. Through the green floor of the valley run crystal streams, born of the virgin glacier, seemingly "begotten for music and joy" which unite to form Wastach brook. Half-way down the valley the stream tumbles in a beautiful cascade over a series of steps in the underlying strata, forming a natural stairway which is known as the Giant's Steps. At the base of mount Temple, like a blue flower dropped from the battlements of heaven, lies little lake Annette, a sheer mile from the lofty summit above. Myriads of

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## LAKE O'HARA

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wide-eyed anemones and purple asters spangle the meadows and add to the beauty of the picture while a stray chickadee flits among the spruces trilling his cheerful little song. The whole expression is one of unsullied beauty and innocence, "like to the valley, which on the finest day of the happiest springtide of the universe, received the first man."

VICTORIA GLACIER AND ABBOT PASS.—A good trail skirting the right side of the lake leads to Victoria glacier. Leaving the trail, a scramble of about a mile over thick moraine, brings one to the glacier's snout, a small ice cave from which a little stream drips to the lake. The glacier itself begins at Abbott pass at the crest of the Divide, flows due north for a mile between mounts Victoria and Lefroy, then turns sharply to the northeast and flows two miles to lake Louise valley between mounts Aberdeen and Whyte. Its greatest width is half a mile. The height of the enclosing walls gives the expanse of ice and fallen debris an impression of extreme desolation. Several times an hour avalanches, which from the Chateau look like white exploding puffballs but which are in reality masses of ice often as large as apartment blocks weighing thousands of tons, break off from the overhanging cliffs and shatter themselves on the glacier's back. From the frequency of these avalanches the pass between Victoria and Lefroy is known as the "Death Trap" though it can safely be traversed during the early part of the day before thawing begins.

Abbot pass (9,588 feet) was named after Philip Stanley Abbot, a distinguished member of the Appalachian Mountain Club, Boston, the victim of the fatal mountaineering accident on mount Lefroy in 1896. This is the gateway to Cataract valley, a region which Sir James Outram declared "absolutely unapproached in interest, variety and charm on the continent of North America yet within the capacity of the ordinary walker."

TO CATARACT VALLEY AND LAKE O'HARA.—This is one of the most delightful trips which can be taken from lake Louise. While it can be done in less time it is well to allow three days so as to permit of a whole



Lake O'Hara

"Apparelled in celestial light,  
The glory and the freshness of a dream."

day at the lake. The trail leads from the Chateau over Victoria glacier and Abbot pass to tiny lake Oesa, a little tarn which is frozen over eleven months of the year. From this lake Cataract brook drops

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## THE LAKE LOUISE DISTRICT

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down through an enchanting fairyland, tumbling at last in an exquisite lacy fall into lake O'Hara. There is a C.P.R. rest hut at the summit of Abbot pass.

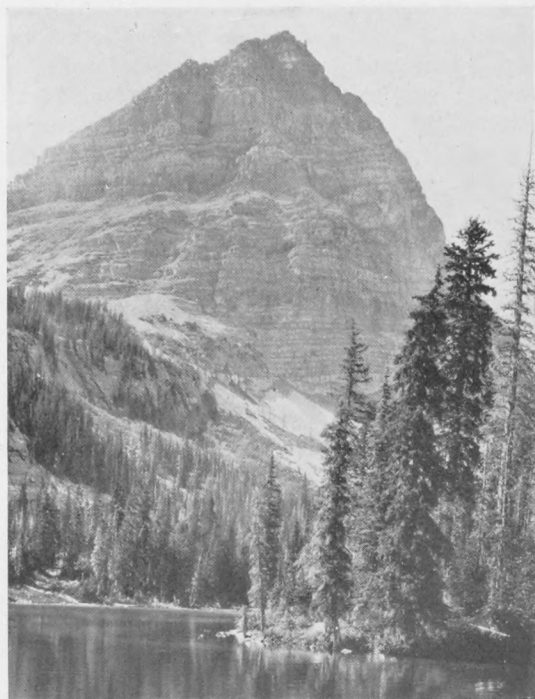
**LAKE O'HARA.**—Although this little lake is only about three quarters of a mile long and half a mile wide it is one of the most perfect gems in the Rockies and has been declared by John S. Sargent, the famous artist, to be superior to lake Louise both in colour and setting. The waters are of a remarkable blue colour, so intense and yet so transparent as to suggest nothing but jewels while the curiously shaped pinnacles of the Wiwaxy peaks and mount Schaeffer form a superb background.

**LAKE MCARTHUR.**—Two miles south of lake O'Hara, between mounts Biddle and Schaeffer, is lake McArthur, named in honour of J. J. McArthur one of the Government surveyors, who has done wonderful pioneer work in Canadian mountaineering. The desolation and bareness of this lake present a marked contrast to the enchanting scenery of lake O'Hara. It is almost entirely surrounded by bare rocky walls, down which a white glacier creeps to thrust its icy hand

into the cold blue waters frozen for a great part of the year. There is no visible outlet but a swirling motion at one place on the surface indicates the existence of a subterranean channel along which the waters drain.

The return trip can be made either to lake Louise or to Hector following Cataract brook to Wapta lake.

**PIPESTONE TRAIL.**—Lake Louise is the starting point for the north as the great trench valleys running parallel to the ranges permit of an almost straight route. There are two main passes, the Bow (6,878 feet) and Pipestone (8,036 feet). Pipestone pass is reached by way of the Pipestone river



Haiduk Peak and Egypt Lake, Pharoah Group

and from the summit trails lead down the Siffleur river to the main Saskatchewan and the Kootenay plains, the latter in the early days the meeting place for the exchange of furs between the Indian

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## BOW LAKE

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trapper and Hudson Bay agent. This trail also gives access to several high mountains including mount Molar, a peculiar toothshaped mountain (9,924 feet), to Cataract peak (9,454 feet), a shoulder of a higher glacier-hung peak which rises to 10,935 feet, as well as to the Clearwater and Fish lakes, both good fishing grounds. These passes lie on the northern limit of the Banff park as does also the Clearwater river, which rises a few miles east of Pipestone pass, and marks the boundary for the rest of the distance.

**BOW TRAIL.**—A few miles west of Lake Louise station the railway leaves the main valley of the Bow following one of its tributaries to within a short distance from the Kicking Horse pass. A trail, however, follows the main valley to the headwaters of the Bow.

This is the gateway to that remarkable alpine region—geological culmination of the Rockies—which finds its climax in the vast Columbia ice-field and its surrounding peaks. To the east of the Divide, and practically parallel, lies a wide trench occupied by successive valleys which forms a natural avenue of travel even to Jasper itself, over 100 miles to the north. Each year a regular pack train expedition makes the return journey, though usually on the southern journey the route diverges to follow the Howse valley and pass, descending by the Blae-berry to Field in the adjoining Yoho park. This expedition starts from Jasper on July first, and leaves Field on the return journey on August first. The time required each way is about twenty-one days during most of which the traveller is out of touch with civilization. The various features found in this remarkable region are too numerous to mention. Suffice it to say that there are five great ice-fields, the Freshfield, the Mons, the Lyell, the Murchison and the Columbia, as well as something like over seventy per cent of the highest peaks in the Rockies including such well-known giants as mount Columbia (12,294 feet); the North Twin (12,085 feet); mount Clémenceau (12,001 feet); mount Brazeau (12,000 feet); mount Alberta (11,874 feet); the South Twin (11,675 feet); mount Bryce (11,507 feet); mount Lyell (11,495 feet); mount Athabaska (11,452 feet); and a number of others well over 11,000 feet.

**HECTOR LAKE.**—This beautiful lake near the headwaters of the Bow, a favourite camping ground along the Bow trail, lies at an altitude of 5,704 feet and has an area of about four square miles. The waters are of an exquisite blue and the green verdure of its shores and grand sweep of encircling peaks form a delightful picture.

**TURQUOISE AND MARGARET LAKES.**—Southwest of Hector lake and draining into it are two beautiful turquoise gems, lakes Margaret and Turquoise. They are fed from the Balfour glacier. Lake Margaret is a beautiful little sheet of water, while Turquoise, in the words of the Rev. C. L. Noyes, one of the first to scale mount Balfour, is a "joy forever."



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## BOW LAKE

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BOW LAKE.—At an altitude of 6,500 feet, and a short distance from the height of land, lies Bow lake, the source of the Bow river, which flows down through the park to become the main source of the South Saskatchewan and so into Hudson bay. The lake is about three miles long, its glacier green waters gleaming against the lofty cliffs that bound the Waputik snowfield from which myriads of glacier tongues project towards the valley. At the head of the lake is the Bow glacier, broken into innumerable seracs, the ice cold waters descending through a steep and narrow canyon to the lake.



Snow Lilies





## CHAPTER 5

### YOHO PARK

At the Great Divide, the summit of the Kicking Horse pass (5,339 feet), the traveller passes from Alberta to British Columbia and from the Banff Park to Yoho Park. The steep descent of the western slope was formerly made by the railway in a series of thrilling curves from which, if the traveller had sufficient nerve left to look about him, he caught glimpses of some of the most dramatic scenery in the world. The construction of the corkscrew tunnels has deprived him of some of the former thrills but fortunately most of the scenery is still visible. The old roadbed has become part of the highway from Lake Louise to Field and the modern motorist may now glide easily down the steep ascent where formerly four powerful engines were needed to pull the trains to the top. The panorama is superb, affording a glimpse of the blue gorge of the Yoho valley to the right, with the great icefields at its head, which must awaken a desire to explore a region which is one of the most magnificent in the Rockies.

The little town of Field is the headquarters of Yoho Park. From it radiate roads and trails to numerous beautiful spots. All of these are worth a visit but no traveller to the mountains should miss the Yoho valley. If the visitor have only one day to spend it is possible by leaving Lake Louise on the early morning train to take the trip up the valley, returning to Emerald Lake Chalet for the night and going on by train the next morning. While the tourist who follows this plan will congratulate himself that he has not missed such a delightful experience he is also sure to regret that he had not several days more at his disposal to do justice to the many charms of this unique district.

At present the chief accommodation in Yoho Park is the Yoho camp, near Takakkaw falls, in the Yoho valley, the Emerald Lake Chalet, a charming little mountain inn capable of accommodating

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## YOH0 PARK

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one hundred and fifty guests, and the Bungalow camp at Wapta, all maintained by the Canadian Pacific Railway and each providing excellent accommodation of its kind.

### YOH0 VALLEY

"A giant valley  
Asleep and vast and still and far away."

"Yoho"—an Indian exclamation of wonder and delight—is the fit appellation of Yoho valley. "Wonderful" is the inevitable exclamation which rises to the lips of every traveller who gazes on its grandeur. Since the first trail was cut out by Tom Wilson, in 1884, this valley has elicited from all travellers enthusiastic expressions of delight. "I am not afraid," said the late R. E. Verne, the well-known author, "of exaggerating the beauties of the Yoho. This valley of enormous trees spiring up from unseen gorges to well nigh unseen heights; of cataraacts that fall in foam a thousand feet; of massed innumerable glaciers; this valley into which it seems you could drop all Switzerland and still look down, is not easily overpraised. The difficulty is to praise it adequately."

Seen from the Kicking Horse pass the Yoho is only a narrow cleft between deep wooded walls stretching north to the gleaming whiteness of the Yoho Glacier. Who could believe that little strip of blue

haze concealed so many wonders! Yet that narrow opening represents a valley 14 miles long and more than a mile deep, walled in by almost perpendicular mountains hung with primeval forest and crowned by enormous snow-fields which creep down from the peaks in slow moving rivers of ice or fall in tremendous cataraacts of spray.

THE BURGESS TRAIL.—From Field there are two ways of reaching the valley. One may either take the motor road along the floor of the valley or the "sky-line trail" starting from a point directly opposite the town, over Burgess pass (7,160 feet). The upper trail affords a tremendous, breath-taking panorama, a chaotic sea of peaks crested with the white form of glaciers stretching



Switchback, Yoho Valley Drive

away as far as the eye can see. The deep abyss is below, the enormous concave of heaven, immeasurably filled with light, above and through all this immensity one passes, a moving speck in a universe suddenly enlarged beyond all comprehension.



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## TAKAKKAW FALLS

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YOHU VALLEY DRIVE.—The valley road winds through a series of pictures which seem trying to surpass each other in beauty and grandeur. Crossing the bridge from Field the road finds a narrow footing between the swirling waters of the Kicking Horse and the base of mount Burgess. Directly ahead are mounts Stephen and Cathedral Crags, towering up against a sky of cobalt. Their great masses close in as if they would shut out the very sky. The sheer tremendousness of the scenery would be overpowering were it not relieved by the great beauty of the vegetation. The lower forest-clad slopes appear to be covered with velvet and along the roadway grow innumerable shrubs and flowers. To the right roars the Kicking Horse in a succession of mad rushes from rock to rock, at one place tumbling down in a series of steps like the keyboards of an organ. Turning sharply to the left one sees the "meeting of the waters" where the Yoho joins the Kicking Horse in a beautiful cascade. Each moment the scenery grows wilder and more impressive. One seems to be getting into the very heart of nature. Time has left no impress in these solitudes. It is only within a quarter of a



Takakkaw Falls, Yoho Valley

"The wild cataract leaps in glory."

century that they have echoed to the voice of man. The silence of the countless centuries still hangs over them like a palpable thing. The traveller feels like an intruder, as if at his coming unseen presences had just withdrawn.

Six miles from Field is reached what is called the "Switch-back," the most thrilling spot in the drive. The road zigzags up the face of the mountain in a series of sharp turns like the letter Z. The Yoho tumbles far below. The cliffs rise sheer above. The turns require skilful driving either for motor or tally-ho but mountain drivers know their business and there is no fear of accident.

THE TAKAKKAW FALLS.—A few miles farther on a dramatic turn in the road suddenly reveals the Takakkaw, a shining wonder of a waterfall apparently poured out from the very heavens like a libation to the unseen gods of the hills.

Born in the great névé between mount Niles and mount Balfour, 2,500 feet above, the ice-cold torrent twists down a narrow chasm till it gains the edge of the precipice where it takes an initial leap of 150 feet and there gathering itself together falls in a glorious curtain of milky green waters and lacy streamers of spray 1,000 feet down the face of the cliff, to tumble in a final beautiful cascade of 500 feet into the Yoho river.

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## YOHO PARK

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LAUGHING AND TWIN FALLS.—When the visitor has drunk his fill of the beauty of the falls he may turn to the valley behind him



Twin Falls, Yoho Valley

"A land of streams, some like a downward smoke  
Slow dropping veils of thinnest lawn did go."

where the white tents of Yoho camp issue an invitation to linger and rest. Here a delicious dinner, which tastes doubly delicious to appetites sharpened by the mountain air, is waiting. From Yoho camp one may take pony and push on either by a low trail following the floor of the valley or by a high trail along the left side of the valley, both of which give access to the beautiful Twin falls, and the Yoho glacier. This is an ice world full of intense interest to the scientist or climber with half a dozen great glaciers and thirty square miles of snow-fields in the immediate neighbourhood and one is loath to leave it behind. Returning to the camp the trail may be taken over the mountains to Emerald lake, a distance of 6 miles, or the road may be followed to Field.

### EMERALD LAKE AND DRIVE

SNOWPEAK AVENUE.—The seven mile drive from Field to Emerald lake is worth taking for its own sake. A primeval forest, almost impenetrable with its tangle of fallen tree trunks, is all about through which now and then one catches the gleam of a white peak. About two miles from Field there is a lovely bit of road known as Snowpeak avenue. The road lies between two tall lines of pines which stand straight at either side but do not overarch so that the intense blue of the sky shows between. At either end of the vista whether going or coming there is a beautiful snowpeak—Emerald peak on the outward journey and Mt. Goodsir (11,676 feet) on the return. The restfulness of this road through the scents and silence of the forest is its chief charm. Other drives may be more spectacular but few will be remembered with so much pleasure.

A diversion of about two miles may be made either going or returning so as to include the Natural bridge.

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## EMERALD LAKE

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EMERALD LAKE.—Emerald lake, which was visited by Tom Wilson in 1882 while searching for stray pack horses, owes its beauty to the peculiar colour of its waters and the charm of its thickly wooded shores. At Moraine lake and lake Louise one shore at least is formed of bare and rugged rock, but Emerald lake lies in a jade green forest which completely clothes all its shores. Its waters are of a prevailing emerald in colour. In their crystalline depths it is said one may count twenty shades of green at one time but never one of blue. Mount



Emerald Lake, Yoho Park

"Green as an emerald in a jade green ring of forest"

Burgess (8,473 feet) lifts its rugged peak like an enormous tower at the right and the great bulk of mount Wapta (9,116 feet) rises far above timber line in front but the lower slopes are green and velvety in the hottest summer, lending the spot an air of sylvan loveliness. Far away to the left one catches a glimpse of the President glacier and the interesting group of peaks to the west of the Yoho valley. High among the trees are the charming chalet and bungalow camp maintained by the Canadian Pacific Railway. The homelike atmosphere and excellent cuisine make this a favourite resting place in the mountains. One may pass days here absorbing the silence and beauty of the region, exploring the shores of the lake in a little boat or fishing the best pools for gamey trout. Trails lead to mounts Burgess and Wapta, both of which make excellent climbs—the latter affording a wonderful view of the Yoho valley—or around the left side of the

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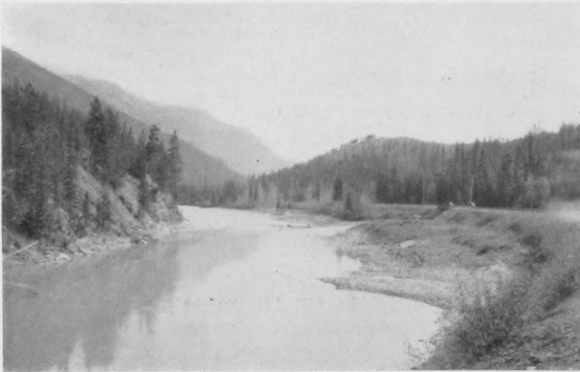
## YOH0 PARK

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lake and over the Yoho pass to the Takakkaw falls. In the neighbouring woods there are numbers of wild flowers including some of the loveliest orchids in the mountains. An alternate trail on the right, is by way of mount Burgess to Burgess pass, where it joins the high trail from Field.

**KICKING HORSE RIVER AND NATURAL BRIDGE.**—The Kicking Horse river, though it derives its name from an accident which Sir James Hector, the discoverer of the pass, sustained through a kick from his horse, aptly deserves the appellation. It is a wild broncho of a river, constantly throwing its rider in the shape of banks and bridges. Its tossing mane is yellow with sediment carried down from the heights, which accumulates in such masses that the river is continually changing its course. About two and a half miles west of Field it reaches what is known as the Natural bridge, a rocky barrier which projects across the whole bed of the stream. Brought up against this sudden check the river rears its head as if to look about it and, discovering a narrow opening in the barrier, it flings the whole force of its volume through the contracted orifice with a great lashing of waters and upthrown clouds of spray. It seems probable that the river once flowed over this rocky barrier but some few thousand years ago it may have dropped below its level, finding some natural crack in the strata which it has widened into the present opening. A little farther down, the river enters a narrow canyon where it tears its way through a series of fine cascades.

**FIELD.**—At Field we may climb mount Stephen (which derives its name from Lord Mount Stephen, one of the first directors of the Canadian Pacific Railway, and which bears the reputation of being the most climbed peak in the Rockies), explore the great fossil bed,



Valley of the Kicking Horse, Yoho Park

"Where the quiet coloured end of evening smiles  
Miles and miles."

150 feet thick—ossuary of millions of trilobites which once swarmed in a vanished sea—2,200 feet up on its north side, or climb up to the summit of its curious sugar-loaf head; or the trail may be taken to lovely lakes O'Hara and McArthur and a visit made to lake Oesa and the upper valley of Cataract brook. Returning to Field

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## FIELD

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the wide valley of the Ottertail with its glorious views of the Van Horne range invites, or if one is scientifically minded he may go on to Leancoil and explore the interesting region of the Ice River valley, the only igneous outcrop in the park, where the blue sodalite, somewhat resembling lapis lazuli, is found. This is a beautiful but little known section guarded by three fine peaks, mount Vaux (10,881 feet), Chancellor peak (10,761 feet) and mount Goodsir (11,686 feet), the last-named the highest peak in Yoho park.

The park is now linked with the outside world on both the east and the west, by railway and through motor highway, while trails connect Field with Jasper park on the north and Kootenay park on the south.

The motor highway from its east gate—the Kicking Horse pass—to Golden, B.C., offers one of the most thrilling drives in the mountains, as well as a circle route returning via the Banff-Windermere highway of over 300 miles. From Field to the western boundary of Yoho park the highway runs along the wide valley of the Kicking Horse river, following easy grades and seldom rising far above the valley. Near Leancoil a trail leads off to the beautiful Wapta falls, mentioned by Sir James Hector and near which occurred the accident in which he was severely injured by his horse and to which the river owes its name. A mile or so west of the boundary of Yoho park the road enters its most spectacular section—the famous Kicking Horse canyon. The narrowness of the defile forced the highway to take a route high up on the side walls of the canyon—a location more difficult from the engineering point of view but which affords the motorist magnificent views of the western Rockies and the snow-capped Selkirks beyond.

Descending at Golden to the valley again, the route now turns southward towards the headwaters of the great Columbia, along a wide valley with the Rockies on the left hand, the Selkirks, across the valley, on the right. At Firlands, 67 miles from Golden, the road connects with the Banff-Windermere highway, just emerging through its spectacular western portal—Sinclair canyon—and return may be made thence to Banff. The southbound traveller, however, may follow the Columbia valley directly south to the International Boundary at Kingsgate, B.C., from which point, connections can be made to Spokane, Seattle, Vancouver and Victoria, Portland, San Francisco and Southern California.



Lynx







Marmot

## CHAPTER 6

### GLACIER PARK AND THE SELKIRKS

The Selkirk mountains, as has been said, occupy the region lying between the two arms of the great loop made by the Columbia river. They are ages older than the Rockies and have a character so distinct that it can be recognized by the most casual observer. While the average height of the peaks is less, the richness of the vegetation contrasted with abundant ice and snow forms a combination which renders them particularly attractive.

"The Selkirk Mountains," says Elizabeth Parker, in the delightful *Guide to the Selkirk Mountains*, "have their own lovers to whom no snows are so white as the Selkirk snows and no clouds so radiant, no forests so darkly beautifully green. There the cedar, hemlock, fir, and spruce, grow together in the rich valleys, climbing in serried ranks to meet the blue ice, softening every sharp outline to a gentle undulation. There hang myriads of glaciers festooning the high mountain walls, and there the curved mounds and cornices of driven snow beautify the harsh mountain faces. And, there, if the pilgrim only travels far enough, whole summits are white against the blue sky, gray rock scarcely showing above the green forest. For, from the railway and the hotel, you see but a strip of the Selkirks. It is the place to absorb the phenomena of alpine beauty in forest and snow; the place to study the phenomena of alpine structures and alpine vegetation. Nor is that rainbow-edged phenomenon, the 'Spectre of the Brocken,' wanting."

Glacier park is a reservation of 468 square miles, extending roughly from the southern boundary of township 25 to the northern boundary of township 28, and from range 24 on the east to range 27 on the west.

At the present time this is the only park wholly inaccessible by motor. The transcontinental trains of the Canadian Pacific Railway thunder two or three times each day along its central valley, but otherwise this park is the home of solitude. Good pack trails, however, lead to all its principal features; opportunities for alpine expeditions are numerous and involve no long preliminary journeys and for those

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## GLACIER PARK AND THE SELKIRKS

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who seek an inspiring alpine retreat, "away from the world, and its noise and its cares," no lovelier could well be found. At the moment of writing (1929) the old C.P.R. hotel, Glacier House, known the

continent over to all mountain lovers, has closed its doors but it is planned to erect, in the near future, a new structure in keeping with the demands of present travel and the beauty of the place.



The Illecillewaet Glacier

GLACIER.—The little town-site of Glacier forms the official headquarters of the park. Situated in the green valley of the Illecillewaet—which derives its musical name from the Indian word meaning "swift water"—it has a magnificent setting of forest and peak. The grey head of Sir Donald (10,808 feet) rises to the east, with Eagle and Uto peaks to the north.

ILLECILLEWAET GLACIER.—Perhaps the feature of most outstanding interest in Glacier Park is the Illecillewaet or

Great Glacier, the most accessible of the large glaciers of the Rockies from the railway. This great icefall, less than two miles from the hotel site, seems in actuality much nearer and its gleaming whiteness framed in the dark fir forest, against a sky of deepest azure, forms a picture so lovely that the eye is caught and held by it at all hours of the day. On moonlit nights it has a glory indescribable, veiled with a ghostly luminosity that removes it from likeness to all things of the common day.

The glacier falls from the great Illecillewaet snowfield, 10 square miles in area, which lies along the eastern escarpment of the Selkirks and which also feeds the Geikie glacier to the southwest. From the crest of the snowfield to the base of the Illecillewaet glacier there is a drop of 3,600 feet. Markings with red paint on the adjacent walls show the rate at which the glacier is receding. The precipitation in the Selkirks is unusually large. As much as 50 feet of snow has been known to fall in a single year, and annually enormous masses are added to the snowfield; yet the glacier is melting more rapidly than it grows. Records which have been kept since 1887 show that it is retreating about 33.2 feet per annum. One of the good points from which to view the glacier is Cascade Summer House, directly above the falls. The trail to this point through the forest and thence to Avalanche basin makes a delightful morning's excursion which can be taken either on foot or pony back.

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## THE ASULKAN VALLEY

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OVERLOOK ON MOUNT ABBOTT.—Another interesting trip is to the Overlook on mount Abbott (7,710 feet). From this vantage point one can look down on the enormous tongue of the ice monster, with its



Climbing in the Selkirks—Mt. Sir Donald  
in distance

deep furrows and cracks and fissures and its tumbled mass of moraine. On the way Marion lake is passed, a sombre little mountain tarn called after his daughter by Mr. W. Spotswood Green, a pioneer explorer, whose book *Among the Selkirk Glaciers* is one of the most interesting on this region. The climb to the summit is somewhat arduous but the visitor is well repaid for the exertion by the remarkable bird's-eye view it affords.

THE ASULKAN VALLEY.—“The chief gem of the district,” says Sir James Outram, “is the Asulkan valley, named after the mountain goats which used to haunt its solitudes, a truly exquisite spot richly wooded, with fine waterfalls and sparkling streams and a grand entourage of glacier and peak.” A trail branches off from

## GLACIER PARK AND THE SELKIRKS

the main trail to the glacier about a quarter of a mile from the hotel site and winds for about four miles through the gloom of an almost tropical forest. "Frequently through the openings in the trees the sable walls of mount Abbott, the Rampart (8,476 feet), the Dome (9,029 feet), and the snowy heights of Castor (9,108 feet) and Pollux (9,176 feet) come into view overhanging the valley on the west, their snows showing white against the azure sky, in clear and cloudless sunshine. These snows are the fountain-head of a series of cataracts, in sight at intervals, that fall in silvery spray down the mountain side and over the high precipitous ledges to the streams below. In one place seven may be counted, variously named—'Asulkan falls,' 'Seven falls,' 'Menotah falls.' It is an enchanted valley. 'The cataracts blow their trumpets from the steep,' and the sunlight is the light of no common day. The gloom and the glory of the mountain beauty meet in the valley. This feeling is intensified by the continuous sound of rushing waters, now faint when the path enters the woods, now filling the air as the torrent sweeps by at your feet."

Numbers of hoary marmots or Whistlers are found at the head of the valley and the curious phenomenon known as "red snow," a form of algæ (*protococcus nivalis*), is frequently to be seen on the glacier.

NAKIMU CAVES.—From Glacier a good carriage road leads six miles up Cougar valley and an additional mile by excellent trail brings one to the Nakimu caves, seven miles distant in the Cougar valley. The word Nakimu is Indian for "spirit's noises" and the spirits indeed seem to have some special connection with this valley. Mount Cheops, called after the Great Pyramid built by Cheops, first king of the Hyksos dynasty, would seem to be in the secrets of the "Above Persons," the spirits who make the rain. A cloud above its head is a sure indication of a shower and woe to the person who disregards the warning for he is certain to meet a drenching.

Half-way down the valley, Cougar brook, which has come cascading gaily through flowery uplands, is suddenly snatched down into the bowels of the mountains. About 450 feet farther it reappears, flows for a



Photo by H. R. Nelson

Seracs, Illecillewaet Glacier

little in the light of day, only to disappear again into the subterranean darkness. Three times in the course of a mile it is caught down in this way and finally the waters disappear forever by an under-



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## CLIMBS

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ground channel. Weird, rumbling noises and the sound of rushing waters can be heard from its underground passageways. It is no wonder that the Indians thought them the abode of the "Under Water Persons" perhaps even of "Ground Man" who typified the power of the earth.

The caves are an extensive series of chambers believed to be formed partly by seismic disturbance and partly by the action of water, connected at various levels by narrow passageways along which the stream rushes in almost total darkness.

Year by year these remarkable caverns have been opened up and their location and character are now fairly well understood. It has been learned that they occur in four separate series, and during recent years the Government has been connecting these up by clearing out interposing rock and blasting tunnels. To-day the visitor may enter near the caretaker's office and travel through over a mile of caves without retracing his steps. Some of the chambers are very impressive, the walls gleaming with crystalline lime encrustations of white or pale pink which in some places resemble the florets of a cauliflower. Several of the grottoes reach a height of from fifty to one hundred feet and the names given to them by their early discoverers indicate their character: Witches' Ballroom, the Auditorium, the White Grotto, the Marbleway, the Judgment Hall, and the Bridal Chamber. Attendants are appointed to conduct visitors through the caves and a traverse of these subterranean chambers is at thrilling experience which, now that safety bridges and stairways have been installed, can be enjoyed without danger.

ROGERS AND BALOO PASSES.—One of the best trail expeditions in this or any other park is the trip over Rogers pass, through the woods of Bear Creek valley, over the wind blown summit of Baloo pass, returning via Cougar valley and the caves. For varied and beautiful scenery this trip can scarcely be surpassed.

CLIMBING IN GLACIER PARK.—Glacier park is a favourite centre for alpine climbing and Swiss guides are usually stationed there throughout the season. Rogers peak (10,536 feet) is a good climb for beginners, as also is mount Sir Donald, called after the late Lord Strathcona. Mr. A. O. Wheeler writes of the view from the latter: "From its height and isolated position, the peak of Sir Donald commands extensive and superb views in every direction. Indeed to ascend Sir Donald is only to 'taste blood,' so many glaciers and snowy ranges of the Selkirks are spread out before the climber." Many of the peaks in these ranges have not been climbed and whole regions are still waiting for the explorer.





A Ski-jumper

## CHAPTER 7

### MOUNT REVELSTOKE PARK

The greeting of Mount Revelstoke Park may well be "the top of the world to you." It is a mountain-top park, literally situated above the clouds. It covers an area of about 100 square miles on the wide plateau which forms the summit of mount Revelstoke and, on account of its altitude, has an individuality all its own. The general character of the landscape is that of many high passes—a wide park-like plateau, gently rolling, covered with green herbage and scattered groves of balsam and fir. Everywhere, growing in such profusion that you may wade through them to the knees, are millions and millions of wild flowers—violets, daisies, lilies, marigolds, lupins and the red mountain heather—veritable gardens of flowers spangling the meadows with colour, blue and white and gold and rose. Near the summit there is a large cleft in the rock 100 feet long and 20 feet wide which has been called the "ice-box," because even in the height of summer it holds almost 20 feet of snow. Across a small valley towards the Clachnacudainn range are three charming little lakes of translucent emerald—Eva, Ella and Millar. The park abounds in game. The wild grouse start up at the sound of a visitor, caribou hob-nob with his grazing pony and if he be very quiet he is more than likely to catch a glimpse of a black bear hobbling off through the trees.

A WINTER SPORTS RESORT.—Mount Revelstoke Park is widely known for its winter sports. It has one of the finest ski-jumps in America, considered by experts to equal the famous Blumendal hill in Norway. World's records have been established here as follows: Professional, standing jump, 229 feet, Henry Hall, Detroit, 1921; Amateur, standing jump, 240 feet, Nels Nelson, 1925; Boys (under 17) standing jump, 148 feet, Ernest Field, 1925; Boys (under 15) standing jump, 115 feet, Arnold Stone, 1925; Boys (under 11) standing jump, 43 feet, Baby Arthur Johnson, 1925; Boys (under 6) standing jump, 22 feet, Joe Farmeloe, 1922; Girl's (under 17) standing jump, 84 feet, Isabel Coursier, 1922.

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## MOUNT REVELSTOKE PARK

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The remarkable distance of 235 feet has been made three times on this hill, once by Hans Hansen, Minneapolis, in 1921, and twice by Nels Nelson, Revelstoke, in 1924. Each time, however, the jumper



Lake Eva, Mt. Revelstoke Park

"Coloured like thick opals and moonstones, the tall slim firs growing at the bottom as if they were real trees."

either touched with his hands or fell, leaving Hall's world's record unbeaten.

The Canadian amateur record for the standing jump was also made on the Revelstoke hill, Nels Nelson of Revelstoke making a distance of 202 feet in 1924. This latter mark is noteworthy, in view of the fact that it was made in a blinding snowstorm. A unique feature is that owing to the altitude these sports can be carried on late into the season. A few years ago the ski competitions were held on the 24th of May.

**THE MOUNT REVELSTOKE MOTOR ROAD.**—The new motor road to the top of Mount Revelstoke provides one of the most thrilling drives in the mountains. It might well be called the Royal Drive, for every Royal party which has toured Canada since the inception of the road has asked that this drive should be included in the itinerary. Mementoes of these visits are retained in two milestones and a stone tablet, each of them marking the spot to which the road was completed at the date of the Royal visit. The first post was erected by His Royal Highness, Prince Arthur of Connaught; the second by his father, H.R.H. the Duke of Connaught, then Governor General of Canada; the third, a tablet dedicating the park to the public, was unveiled by His Royal Highness, the Prince of Wales, in September, 1919, in the course of his western tour. In 1927 the road was finally completed to the summit and formally opened by His Royal Highness, the Prince of Wales.

**DRIVE UP MOUNT REVELSTOKE.**—Arriving at Revelstoke by the afternoon train the drive can be taken by motor in three hours allowing ample time to be back to the hotel for dinner. Leaving the little town behind, we start to climb up the slopes of beautiful mount Revelstoke. The road ascends by an easy grade—seven per cent is the average—through virgin forest thick with underbrush or along the verge of a rocky ledge dropping sheer away below. Each moment

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## DRIVE UP MOUNT REVELSTOKE

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the view grows more impressive. Below lies the valley, flat as a floor, with the Illecillewaet coming in from the left, the Columbia from the right and the little town set between. To the west can be seen the narrow cleft in the range—Eagle pass—through which the railway crosses to the Gold range. The glorious old snow bonnet of mount Begbie (8,946 feet)—the monarch of the range—stands out prominently in front. To the southeast is the snow capped line of the Selkirks, shining in the afternoon light. The panorama which is afforded at the summit is worth coming many miles to see. We are tempted to linger here gazing at the little mountain town far below us, encircled by its gleaming ribbons of silver and set about by a circle of mighty peaks, but the level light reminds us that it is time to leave.

As we turn downwards the September sun is just sinking behind the Gold range. A magnificent shaft of light strikes through the narrow gorge of Eagle pass, falling like a searchlight across the valley. Summit lake at the top of the pass shines like silver. A film of blue haze, like a veil of chiffon or the gauzy drop screen of a theatre, is drawn across the lower slopes. One after another the peaks light up, their cold immensities transformed as if at the touch of an unseen wand into airiest rose. Regal old Begbie is crowned with gold and hung with royal purples. Overhead float diaphanous cloud shapes like rosy foam blown from the tops of the peaks. For a few minutes the transfiguration holds while

Royal the pageant closes  
Lit by the last of the sun,  
Opal and ashes of roses,  
Cinnamon, umber and dun.

Then the light fades. The peaks die out, one by one. The show is over. Night draws the darkness across the amphitheatre of the valley. The great mountains—the leading actors—withdraw themselves even from our admiration into the upper solitudes to hold converse with their true compeers—the stars. It is time to go home. We turn down to the valley with an infinite regret. To-morrow we must go back to the work-a-day life of the cities. It is hard to say goodbye to the serenity and peace of this beautiful mountain world. A squirrel scampers across our path with some food which he has gathered for his winter store. Well, we have been busy too. Like him we have laid up a rich harvest for the long winter months—a harvest of health, of new inspiration, fresh vision and unforgettable memories.







Young Robin

## APPENDIX 1

### VEGETATION AND WILD LIFE OF THE PARKS

#### TREES

We grow on mountains where the glaciers cry,  
Infinite sombre armies of us stand  
Below the snow peaks which defy the sky.  
We know no man, our life is to stand staunch,  
Singing our song against the avalanche.

**FORESTS OF THE ROCKIES.**—The forests of the Rockies form one of the most beautiful features of the landscape. For the most part they are coniferous and their myriad tall, straight trunks and pointing spires harmonize perfectly with the towering peaks. The prevailing tree is the Lodgepole pine, an instance of the survival of the fittest, as its hard cones and long-lived seeds enable it to persist in the face of very adverse conditions. The most enduring species climb to about 6,500 or 7,000 feet on the east slope and slightly lower on the west. Along the river flats near Banff are seen Balm of Gileads and the graceful coppery boles of the mountain birch.

The white spruce (*Picea canadensis*) has three habitats of varying altitude. "In the Bow valley, westward of Banff, it occupies marshy flats associated with willows and sedges. Between 4,500 and 7,000 feet it covers rocky slopes almost bare of soil and clothes the steep sides of the smaller lateral valleys opening out of the Bow valley into the Saw-back range and often occurs as a narrow band above the pine forest." It is abundant, too, on the floors of deep valleys such as Healy creek.

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## VEGETATION AND WILD LIFE

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The Englemann spruce is found as a forest only near timber line. Its heavier outline and yellowish bronze foliage distinguish it even at a distance from the darker green of the white spruce. In July or early August its reddish-purple cones are an exquisite sight.

The balsam fir and the Alpine or Lyall's larch grow only in the higher altitudes, at the last outpost of tree growth. The latter is one of the most beautiful of trees. Like the eastern tamarack which it resembles, its foliage is deciduous, turning in late September to a bright lemon yellow which, contrasted with the green of the pines and the red of the smaller shrubs, makes the forest in autumn from the valleys look like a brilliant afghan thrown over the peaks. Specimens of this beautiful tree may be found along the shores of lake Louise and at the summit of Simpson pass. Scattered individuals of the Douglas fir are found throughout Banff Park. A fine specimen may be seen in the grounds of the Administration Building.

It is impossible to look at these mountain forests without a certain feeling of sympathy. They show such hardihood and courage. From the valleys the pines seem like battalions charging up the slopes. They climb up the rocky walls to the heights like armies storming a citadel, clinging desperately to the tiniest foothold, taking advantage of every crack and crevice to get a firmer grip for their roots. And what a constant battle is their existence in these upper solitudes! As they creep higher the cold and winds grow more desperate until they cannot even stand upright but crouch tormented, twisted and tortured but yet unconquered. And always they are threatened by the menace of fire. While this may be caused by lightning, as a rule man is their most dangerous enemy. A half-burnt cigar, a careless match, the coals of a smouldering camp fire, may destroy miles of the green beauty which it has taken so many years to create, leaving only the desolation of blackened rampikes and sometimes destroying even the humus, so that for years no tree will grow.

THE SELKIRK FORESTS.—The vegetation of the Selkirks is more luxuriant than that of the Rockies and possesses many species not found in the more easterly range. Among the trees are the Giant cedar which often grows to ten feet in diameter; the cottonwood; and two species of hemlock, *Tsuga Mertensiana* and *Tsuga palloniana*, the latter more graceful with larger cones. The Douglas fir, which grows from 100 to 300 feet high in these mountains, is also found in great abundance.

In the valleys and on the lower slopes the shrubbery and undergrowth is almost tropical in its rankness. Among the shrubs the traveller soon makes the unpleasant acquaintance of one in particular, the Devil's club, "the lion in the way of every man who would blaze a trail through the Selkirk valleys." It grows in the form of a tall cane with wide spreading leaves and a bunch of bright berries at the top. The stalk is covered with villainous looking thorns which break off in the flesh and cause painful festers and the shrubs grow so closely together that it is practically impossible to force a way through without an axe.

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## FLOWERS

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### FLOWERS

A garland will I weave of mountain flowers  
Pink alpine clover, pale anemones  
And saxifrages fed by flying showers.

—John Addington Symonds.

To the lover of nature the wild flowers of the parks will be a constant source of delight. Strange as it may seem the flora of the higher altitudes is among the most beautiful in the world. Over 500 varieties have been identified in the Rockies, and their colour, fragrance and delicate loveliness add the last touch of enchantment to the region. While they grow in rich profusion in the valleys and on the lower slopes, it is on the alpine meadows above timber line where even the stubborn little pines and spruces have been beaten back by the cold, that they are to be found at their finest. High tablelands like Simpson pass (7,200 feet) in July are



White Heath

"Lone flowers hemmed in with snows and white as they"



Primula

"Those little dream flowers found  
in spring."

veritable seas of colour, waves of blue and rose and white and yellow and vivid green breaking against the stern grey of the rocks. Higher still at the verge of perpetual snow, the "dauntless flag of the flowers," will still be found waving, crowding their whole life-cycle into a brief season of perhaps six weeks. In the Bow valley spring comes about the end of April and a few days later the frail anemone is pushing its head through the melting snow. Soon there are flowers blowing everywhere in the lower valleys and as the snow retreats the gay floral procession follows, coming so close upon its heels that you may sometimes stand with one foot upon the snow, the other touching living flowers. "On the lower levels," says Mrs. Henshaw, in her delightful *Wild Flowers of the North American Mountains*, "white-flowered, scarlet-fruited shrubs mingle with the

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## VEGETATION AND WILD LIFE

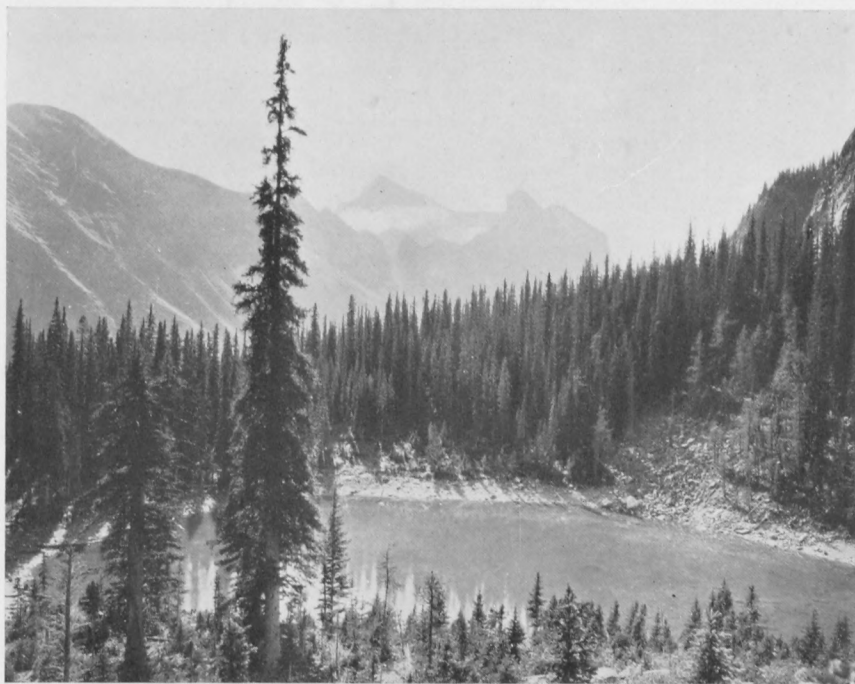
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Wintergreens, Larkspurs, Violets and Columbines; flaming Indian Paintbrushes, Gentians, Queencups and Purple Vetches cover many a slope; here a valley is covered with yellow Lilies, Gaillardias, Arnicas and Goldenrods—a glorious Field-of-the-Cloth-of-Gold—and there some mossy plateau is gay with arctic-alpine Androsaces, Stonecups, Everlastings and the trailing vines of the sweet-scented Northern Twin flowers. On the high passes above timber line grow the White Heath and the red Mountain Heather, the latter first cousin of its famous Scotch namesake, covering the slopes with “its rose-red robe.” Higher up still grow the Saxifrages, the White Dryas, the frail Everlastings, ‘pearly, pink-tipped and pale’.”

### MOUNTAIN LAKES

A lake is the landscape's most beautiful and expressive feature. It is earth's eye looking into which the beholder measures the depth of his own nature.—Thoreau.

One of the delights of the Rockies is the great number of exquisitely tinted lakes. They are of many sizes, ranging from a few yards to several miles in length, but from the tiniest tarn to a sheet of water



Mirror Lake

“Blue, blue, as if the sky let fall, a flower from its cerulean wall.”

like lake Minnewanka, they are distinguished by a brilliance and purity of colour which is truly gemlike. Sometimes, like lake Agnes, they will lie high up in a bare little rocky pocket chiselled out by a hanging



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## WILD LIFE

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glacier. Oftener, especially in the lower and older valleys, they will be fringed with the slim spires of spruces or firs which are reflected in their crystalline depths. A hanging valley, the outlet of which has been obstructed by a moraine, nearly always contains one or more beautiful little lakes, and they are also found on many of the high passes.

The wonderful colour of the water always arouses interest and the question naturally arises what is its cause. This is generally conceded to be due to the presence of glacial deposit. Dr. A. P. Coleman, Professor of Geology, University of Toronto, says: "It seems strange to trace the brilliant colours of mountain waters to the effect of glacial mud, yet the cause of the usual intense blue is probably to be found in particles of mud so fine that they remain suspended in the water after the heavier sediments have fallen. If these particles are very minute, they reflect only the shorter, that is the blue rays of light; if a little larger the green waves are reflected also. With these colours, due to the finest mud particles, there are sometimes mingled in shallow water the yellow of sand beds or the richer green of aquatic plants, giving a considerable range of beautiful tints. Some tarns surrounded by muskegs have quite a different set of colours, however, ranging from dark brown to yellowish tones according to the amount of dissolved peaty matter. They suggest amber or zircon, while the other lakes, which are much more common, suggest turquoise, aquamarine or emerald; all gems of rich colour in splendid setting."

FISHING.—Many of these mountain lakes are teeming with fish, including the Cutthroat, the gamiest trout of the mountains, and the Dolly Varden or Bull trout, which run to twelve pounds in weight. Lake Minnewanka is the only lake containing the Lake trout, a fish which runs as high as forty pounds. All the best fishing lakes are being constantly restocked from the Government hatchery at Banff, so that the fishing is growing better every year. One or two varieties not native to the park waters have also been introduced, including the Salmon trout which can now be found in lake Minnewanka.

### WILD LIFE

"The wild wood things unheeding us."

One of the greatest attractions of the parks, rivalling even the scenery, is the large numbers of wild life. This entire area is a game sanctuary. Within its borders no trap may be set, no gun fired. It is a paradise for wild life, guarded on all sides not by flaming swords, but by the eternal vigilance of an administration which loves and is determined to protect the wild life heritage of this beautiful domain. The response which their efforts have met from the forest creatures bears out the truth of Dr. Hornaday's words that "it is men, not the animals, who are wild." Wherever they are free to breed without molestation nearly all species rapidly increase and become surprisingly tame. The value of sanctuaries has perhaps nowhere been better established than in the National Parks of Canada. A dozen years ago several species seemed on the point of disappearance. Within two

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## VEGETATION AND WILD LIFE

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years of the enforcement of an adequate protection the wild life began to come back. Bighorn or Rocky Mountain sheep, the Mountain goat, Black bear, moose, elk and Blacktail or Mule deer may now be seen in large numbers and they are rapidly losing all fear of man.

It is noticeable that the animals follow the roads and trails into the park, and, since the construction of the Banff-Windermere highway, large numbers of game have come in from British Columbia. From Exshaw to the Gap is a sheep country; elk and deer are found from the Gap to Banff and deer, sheep, goat, moose and elk in the country west of Banff. During July and August many of the larger animals keep fairly high up on the slopes to avoid the flies, but with the first touch of autumn, with the exception of the goat and grizzly, they begin to drift back to the lower valleys and they may then be seen in large numbers. During the winter deer wander all through the streets of Banff, poking their noses about the back doors of the residents, looking for scraps of food or that irresistible deer delicacy—potato peelings. It is a common but always pretty sight to see them feeding from the hands of children. Even in the summer a tourist who rises early may see a deer below his window or he may come upon one in any solitary walk about Banff. If he go out a few miles along



Bighorn sheep along the Motor Highway

the motor road west he is sure to see some Bighorn sheep (*Ovis canadensis*) and if he be lucky he may even see 200.

"The Bighorn or Rocky Mountain sheep," says Harlan I. Smith, Archæologist of the Geological Survey, Ottawa, "is the chamois of the American west, a fine strong, sturdy, active, bold mountaineer with a keen eye." His long curved horns have made him a coveted prize of the big game hunter, but he furnishes almost as great a trophy for the camera and he has become so tame about Banff that it is possible to secure a picture of him even from a motor car.

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## ANIMALS AND BIRDS

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The Mountain goat (*Oreamnos montanus*) lives on the higher summits usually above timber line. "They look," says Mr. Smith, "slow and clumsy, have a rheumatic gallop and their motions remind one of a bear, but while curious and somewhat stupid, they are the most skilful and brave alpine climbers of the hoofed animals of the Americas." Whether it be a sign of superior intelligence or otherwise, they are apparently dominated by feminine influence. They are usually seen travelling along the shaly upper slopes or across a dizzy ledge on the verge of a thousand-foot precipice in the wake of a "sagacious old nanny." A band of these goats can frequently be seen feeding on the slopes of mount Rundle at Banff.

Another animal, of which the visitor who goes out along the trails is sure to make the acquaintance, is the Hoary marmot (*Arctomys columbianus*). His shrill call, "like an intermittent steam whistle," is very startling in the mountain silences and has given him the name of "Whistler." Sometimes, too, you may catch a glimpse of a black



Rocky Mountain Goat  
"Wild goats sporting round the eagle's nest."

bear rambling off through the forest and five or six of these may usually be seen in the evening about the garbage grounds at Banff. The fretful porcupine is a frequent night visitor to camps, where is he apt to carry off any stray bacon or leather articles he can find. Smaller animals include the Parry's or Lesser marmot, the marten, muskrat, beaver, the pika or little Chief hare—known as the Haymaker from his habit of piling up grass—the squirrels who live among loose rocks at the bottom of the slopes and, higher up, chipmunks. The Grizzly (*Ursus horribilis*) is seldom seen in the Rockies but in the Selkirks he may occasionally be met.

### BIRD LIFE

It is a popular saying that "there are no birds in the mountains" but the fallacy will be speedily disproved by anyone who knows how to use both eyes and ears. The bird life of the parks numbers many

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## VEGETATION AND WILD LIFE

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species though one needs to be a careful observer, it is true, to find birds in the heavy evergreens. Many species, however, such as the grouse, are more readily seen because they are never disturbed and so have lost their fear of man. In fact there is one bird which practically every visitor who goes out along the roads or trails is sure to see and that is the Franklin's grouse, generally called the "Fool-hen" on account of his lack of intelligence. He seems to have no sense of danger whatever and will fly down in the most stupid way right in front



Fool-hen

of your motor car or under your pony's feet. Another bird, characteristic of the mountains, though not peculiar to them is the Whiskey-jack, or Canada jay, a large grey bird about 11 inches in length whose Indian name "Wisagatchak" has been corrupted into "whiskey-jack." Two or three of these birds will sometimes fly along beside you as you drive through the woods, inspecting you from every angle and apparently as much interested in newcomers as any village gossip. Whether it be another instance of giving a bird a bad name or not, the Whiskey-jack is an inveterate thief, so bold that he will even steal pieces of bacon hot out of the pan. The Richardson's grouse, White-tailed ptarmigan, several species of sandpipers, a rare Golden eagle, the ever-cheerful chickadee and the Mountain bluebird, which closely resembles our beautiful Eastern bluebird except that the red in the latter's dress is replaced by blue, are also likely to be seen.

The Continental Divide forms the dividing line between the eastern and the western species but some adventurous western species have crossed the height of land and will be found on the eastern side especially as you approach the divide. Then, too, it must be remembered that different species will be found at different levels and when you have tired of the birds of the valleys it is only necessary to climb to a higher altitude to make a whole new group of bird friends. Sometimes these mountain birds drift down to the lower levels and in the autumn it is a common sight



Whiskey-jack

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## BIG GAME

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around Banff to see true birds of the heights like the *Leucosticte* drifting down in flocks from their summit homes to escape the first snowstorms.

### BIG GAME

While no hunting may be done in the parks the areas adjacent to their boundaries are among the best big game districts on the continent. They can be reached usually by a two or three days' trail trip. Banff is the principal outfitting centre for expeditions of this kind and there are several firms that supply guides, ponies and all the necessary camp equipment. The Bighorn, or Rocky Mountain sheep, the Rocky Mountain goat and the Grizzly are the most prized trophies.



Squirrel







Royal Canadian Mounted Police

## APPENDIX 2

### TRAIL TRIPS

#### TRAIL TRIPS RADIATING FROM BANFF

1. BANFF TO SPRAY LAKES—Starting from Banff in a southeasterly direction trail follows the Spray river, branching at fork of the river to the foot of lower Spray lake, the left branch proceeding through Whiteman's pass between Goat range and Three Sisters to upper and lower Spray lakes, joining main trail at the foot of latter lake. Approximately 25 miles.

#### *Extension Trips*

- (a) KANANASKIS LAKES—From the foot of Spray lakes up the pass between the Kananaskis and Spray ranges to the Summit thence down the west fork of the Kananaskis river to Kananaskis lakes. Approximately 25 miles.
  - (b) BRYANT CREEK—From the foot of Spray lakes up Bryant creek to the foot of mount Assiniboine. Approximately 18 miles.
  - (c) BREWSTER-BRYANT—From the foot of mount Assiniboine, down Brewster creek to Healy creek. Approximately 19½ miles.
2. BANFF TO MOUNT ASSINIBOINE—From Banff in a westerly direction past the Cave and Basin and Sundance creek to junction with Brewster-Bryant trail; up Brewster creek to Bryant creek, to foot of mount Assiniboine. Approximately 30 miles.

#### *Extension Trip*

SUNDANCE CREEK—From mouth of Sundance creek and up creek to Sundance pass. Approximately 1 mile.

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## TRAIL TRIPS

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3. BANFF TO SIMPSON PASS—From Banff in a southwesterly direction past the Cave and Basin, along Bow river to Healy creek and following Healy creek up to the summit of Simpson pass. Approximately 23 miles.

### *Extension Trips*

- (a) MOUNT ASSINIBOINE—From summit of Simpson pass south along Simpson river and the south fork of latter to the foot of mount Assiniboine. Approximately 18 miles.
- (b) REDEARTH CREEK—From the mouth of Healy creek, following the Bow river to the mouth of Redearth creek, thence up the creek, following the east fork to rejoin Simpson trail at Simpson pass summit. Approximately 23 miles.
4. SAWBACK—From Banff via the Banff-Castle motor road to mount Edith and north up Fortymile creek to Sawback lake, over the summit and down Sawback creek to its junction with the Cascade river. Approximately 25 miles. The return trip may be made by Cascade river if desired.
5. CASCADE RIVER—From Banff along motor road to Minnewanka, and following the Cascade river northwest to join the Sawback trail at the mouth of Sawback creek. Approximately 34 miles.

### *Extension Trips*

- (a) SOUTH PANTHER—From the Cascade river trail at the mouth of Stoney creek, following up the creek to the head of the South Panther river. Approximately 11 miles.
- (b) CUTHEAD—From Cascade river trail near the mouth of Cuthead creek, proceeding north over the summit and down Wigmore creek to the Panther river. Approximately 12 miles.
6. GHOST RIVER—From Banff, following motor road to lake Minnewanka and along the lake through Devil's gap to the Ghost river. Approximately 26 miles.
7. CARROT CREEK—From Banff via the Calgary-Banff motor road east to Carrot creek and thence up Carrot creek to join the Ghost river trail at the east end of lake Minnewanka. Approximately 22 miles.
8. JOHNSTON CREEK—From Banff via Banff-Castle motor road to Johnston creek and up the creek to the canyon and falls. Approximately 13 miles.
9. CASCADE MOUNTAIN—From Banff along motor road to Vermilion lakes and up the west face of Cascade mountain. Approximately 7 miles.

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## TRAIL TRIPS RADIATING FROM LAKE LOUISE

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10. RUNDLE MOUNTAIN—From Banff up the west face of mount Rundle. Approximately  $3\frac{1}{2}$  miles.
11. SULPHUR MOUNTAIN—From Banff up the east slope of Sulphur mountain, past the Hot Springs to the Observatory. Approximately  $3\frac{1}{2}$  miles.
12. RED DEER—From Banff by motor road to Bankhead, approximately 6 miles, thence up the Cascade river by trail to the Panther river, following down the latter to its junction with the Red Deer river, and up the Red Deer to Pipestone creek, down Pipestone creek and Pipestone river to Laggan, total 140 miles. Return trip to Banff may be made by motor road or by train, 37 miles.

### TRAIL TRIPS RADIATING FROM LAKE LOUISE

1. LAKE TRAIL—From Chateau Lake Louise, following the west shore of the lake to opposite end,  $1\frac{3}{4}$  miles.

#### *Extension Trip*

LOWER GLACIER—From the head of Lake trail, following the creek up to Victoria Glacier,  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles.

2. LAKES IN THE CLOUDS—From the Chateau the trail climbs 1,000 feet to Mirror lake, thence 200 feet to lake Agnes, 3 miles.

#### *Extension Trips*

- (a) LOOKOUT POINT—From Mirror lake trail follows around the face of the Beehive to Lookout point,  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile.
  - (b) UPPER GLACIER—From Lookout point along the mountain-side to join Lower glacier trail,  $1\frac{1}{4}$  miles.
  - (c) BEEHIVE—From lake Agnes the trail climbs to the summit of the Beehive,  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile.
  - (d) MOUNT ST. PIRAN—From lake Agnes to the summit of mount St. Piran, 1 mile.
  - (e) LITTLE BEEHIVE—From Mirror lake to the summit of the Little Beehive, 1 mile.
3. PARADISE VALLEY—From the Chateau trail leads around the foot of mount Fairview and up Paradise valley, 8 miles.

#### *Extension Trips*

- (a) LAKE ANNETTE—From Paradise valley trail across the creek to lake Annette, 1 mile.
- (b) GIANT STEPS—From Paradise valley to the Giant Steps, 1 mile.
- (c) SENTINEL PASS—From Paradise valley through Sentinel pass to Moraine lake, 7 miles.

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## TRAIL TRIPS

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4. SADDLEBACK—From the Chateau the trail climbs between mount Fairview and Saddleback, thence follows Sheol valley to meet trail in Paradise valley, 4 miles.
5. MORaine LAKE—From the foot of Paradise valley to the valley of the Ten Peaks and Moraine lake, 4 miles.

### *Extension Trips*

- (a) CONSOLATION LAKES—From Moraine lake cabin, leading up Consolation valley to the lakes, 3 miles.
- (b) WENKCHEMNA PASS—From Moraine lake leading along the Glacier to the summit of the Wenkchemna pass, 5 miles.
6. HECTOR—From the Chateau along the mountain side to the Great Divide, thence to Hector, 10 miles.

### *Extension Trip*

LAKE O'HARA—From Hector, following up Cataract creek to lake O'Hara, thence to lake McArthur, 10 miles.

7. BOW LAKES—From the Chateau by motor road to Lake Louise station, thence by trail up the Bow valley to Bow lakes and north park boundary, 32 miles. This trail may be continued to the Saskatchewan or the Clearwater along the north boundary of the park.
8. PIPESTONE—From the Chateau by motor road to Lake Louise station, thence by trail up the Pipestone river to Pipestone summit, 28 miles. Return may be made by way of the little Pipestone and Corral creek.

### *Extension Trip*

LITTLE PIPESTONE—From the Pipestone trail at the mouth of Pipestone creek, up the latter to Red Deer summit and Ptarmigan lake, 8 miles. Return may be made via Corral creek.

9. PTARMIGAN—From the Chateau by motor road to Lake Louise station, thence by trail up Corral creek to Ptarmigan lake, 12 miles. Return may be made via Baker lakes and creek, 27 miles.

## TRAIL TRIPS RADIATING FROM FIELD

1. FOSSIL BEDS—From Field up mount Stephen to the fossil beds. Approximately 3 miles.
2. YOH0 LAKE—From Field across Kicking Horse river over Burgess pass to Yoho lake. Approximately 7 miles.

### *Extension Trips*

- (a) TWIN FALLS—From Yoho lake down to the Yoho river at Takakkaw falls and up the river to Twin falls. Approximately 8 miles. A return trip to Yoho lake may be made from Twin falls along a higher trail of approximately the same length.



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## TRAIL TRIPS RADIATING FROM FIELD

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- (b) WHALEBACK—From Twin falls over Whaleback mountain and back to upper trail. Approximately  $2\frac{1}{2}$  miles.
  - (c) YOHO GLACIER—From Twin falls following the Yoho river to the glacier. Approximately 4 miles.
  - (d) LITTLE YOHO—From the Upper Yoho trail and following up the Little Yoho river, returning on opposite side. Approximately  $3\frac{1}{2}$  miles.
  - (e) EMERALD LAKE—From Yoho lake, leading over the Yoho pass to chalet at the foot of Emerald lake, where the trail meets the auto road from Field. Approximately 4 miles.
- 3. LAKE O'HARA—Starting from Field along the auto road, approximately 6 miles, to Ottertail river, thence by trail up the Ottertail river and McArthur creek to lake O'Hara, approximately 22 miles. Return trip can be made from lake O'Hara down Cataract creek to Hector, and by road to Field, approximately 16 miles. Total round trip from Field, approximately 38 miles.
  - 4. AMISKWI—Starting from Field along Emerald lake road, thence up the Amiskwi river, to Amiskwi pass, a distance of 19 miles.
  - 5. KICKING HORSE—Starting from Field along Emerald lake road, approximately 3 miles, to Natural bridge, thence along Kicking Horse river and across the river to meet the Ottertail road, approximately 12 miles. Return to Field via latter road, a distance of 6 miles.
  - 6. BEAVERFOOT—From Field along the Ottertail road to Ottertail, approximately 6 miles, thence by trail along the Kicking Horse and Beaverfoot rivers to the mouth of the Ice river, approximately 27 miles.

### *Extension Trips*

- (a) ICE RIVER—From the Beaverfoot trail at the mouth of the Ice river, up river. Approximately 6 miles.
  - (b) LEANCHOIL—From the Beaverfoot trail near Deer Lodge, crossing the Kicking Horse river and following the C.P.R. to Leancoil. Approximately 3 miles.
  - (c) DEER LODGE—From the Beaverfoot trail up the mountain past Deer Lodge. Approximately  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles.
- 7. SUMMIT LAKE—From Field east Lake Louise Road through the Kicking Horse canyon to Hector and Summit lakes, total 10 miles. (Note: This trip is now all motor road.)

### *Extension Trip*

SHERBROOKE LAKE—From motor road at Kicking Horse canyon north by trail to Sherbrooke lake, approximately 2 miles.

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## TRAIL TRIPS

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### TRAIL TRIPS RADIATING FROM GLACIER

1. NAKIMU CAVES—From Glacier by wagon road,  $3\frac{1}{2}$  miles, thence to the Caves by trail,  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles.
2. GREAT GLACIER—From Glacier trail climbs to the Great Glacier with return trail on the opposite side of the creek, 4 miles.

### *Extension Trips*

SIR DONALD—From the Great glacier trail climbs up mount Sir Donald, 3 miles.

3. ASULKAN—From Glacier, trail leads south up Asulkan brook to the Asulkan glacier, 6 miles.
4. MOUNT ABBOTT—From Glacier trail climbs mount Abbott, 6 miles.
5. LOOK-OUT—From Glacier climbing mount Avalanche to the Avalanche glacier,  $5\frac{1}{2}$  miles.
6. ROGERS PASS—From Glacier trail climbs to Rogers pass along old railway right of way, 4 miles.

### *Extension Trips*

- (a) BALOO PASS—From Rogers pass leads west through Baloo pass and connects with Nakimu caves trail at the Caves, 5 miles.
- (b) MOUNT HERMIT—From the old railway right of way, half a mile east of Rogers pass, trail climbs mount Hermit,  $3\frac{1}{2}$  miles.



Black Bear

### APPENDIX 3

## PLACE NAMES AND ALTITUDES IN BANFF PARK

ABBOT; pass, 9,588 ft.; after Philip Stanley Abbot, member of the Appalachian Mountain Club, Boston, who met his death on the steeps of mount Lefroy, 1896.

ABERDEEN; mount, 10,340 ft.; after the Marquis of Aberdeen, former Governor General of Canada.

AGNES; lake, 6,875 ft.; after Susan Agnes, wife of Sir John A. Macdonald, former Premier of Canada.

ANNETTE; lake; after Mrs. Astley, wife of the late manager of the Lake Louise Chalet. (Wilcox).

ASSINIBOINE; mount, 11,870 ft.; after the Assiniboine tribe of Indians. (Dawson).

AYLMER; mountain, 10,365 ft.; after town of Aylmer, Quebec. (McArthur).

BABEL; mount, 10,175 ft.; fancied resemblance to Tower of Babel.

BALL; mount, 10,825 ft.; after John Ball, Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies, 1855-57. (Hector).

BANFF; town, 4,538 ft.; by Lord Strathcona, after his birthplace, Banff, Scotland.

BANKHEAD; town, 4,596 ft.; by Lord Strathcona, after Bankhead, Banffshire, Scotland.

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\*From a paper by Mr. Jas. White, Deputy Head of the Commission of Conservation, read before the Royal Society of Canada, 1916.

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## PLACE NAMES AND ALTITUDES

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- BATH; creek, (bed) 5,272 ft.; creek named July 20, 1881, when Major Rogers, of the Canadian Pacific engineering staff, took an involuntary bath in it by being thrown from his horse.
- BIDENT; mount, 10,109 ft.; resembles a double tooth.
- BONNET; peak, 10,290 ft.; descriptive of summit.
- BOOM; lake, 6,210 ft.; mountain, 9,007 ft.; drift wood dammed against a shoal resembled a lumberman's boom.
- BOSWORTH; mount, 9,093 ft.; after G. M. Bosworth, 4th Vice-president Canadian Pacific Railway.
- BOURGEAU; mount, 9,575 ft.; after E. Bourgeau, botanist to the Palliser expedition. (Hector).
- BOW; river; pass, 6,878 ft.; lake, 6,420 ft.; the wood which grew on the banks of the river was suitable for the making of bows; translation of Cree Indian name "manachaban."
- BREWSTER; creek; after Jas. Brewster, well known guide and outfitter, Banff.
- CANMORE; town, 4,297 ft.; after Kenmore village, Argyllshire, Scotland.
- CASCADE; mountain, 9,826 ft.; from translation of Indian name "mountain where the water falls."
- CASTLE; mountain, 9,030 ft.; from resemblance to feudal fortress. (Hector).
- CONSOLATION; valley; pass, 8,300 ft.; named by Wilcox in contrast to neighbouring Desolation valley.
- COPPET; mountain, 9,130 ft.; named by Dawson on account of copper deposits.
- COSTIGAN; mountain, 9,630 ft.; after late Hon. John Costigan, Minister in Sir John A. Macdonald's Government.
- DELTAFORM; mount, 11,225 ft.; from similarity to Greek letter A.
- DEVIL'S HEAD; mountain, 9,175 ft.; translation of Cree name "We-ti-kwas-ti-kwan." Sir Geo. Simpson says that it bears a rude resemblance to an upturned face.
- DEVILS THUMB; mountain, 8,066 ft.; descriptive.
- DOUGLAS; mount, 11,017 ft.; after David Douglas, a Scottish botanist who crossed the Athabaska pass, 1827.
- DRUMMOND; mount, 9,530 ft.; after Thos. Drummond, Assistant naturalist in Franklin's second expedition to the Arctic, 1825-27. (Dawson).
- EDITH; mount, 8,370 ft.; after Mrs. J. F. Orde (nee Edith Cox), who visited Banff with Lady Macdonald in 1886.
- EIFFEL; peak, 10,091 ft.; from huge tower rising about 1,000 feet, which suggests Eiffel tower.
- FAIRHOLME; range (N. peak), 9,305 ft.; named by Hector, probably after Fairholme seat, Lanarkshire, Scotland.

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## IN BANFF PARK

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- FAIRVIEW; mount, 9,001 ft.; magnificent view from summit.
- FATIGUE; mountain, 9,667 ft.; descriptive of explorer's sensations when climbing mountain.
- FAY; mount, 10,612 ft.; after Prof. Chas. E. Fay, member of Appalachian Mountain Club, Boston.
- GHOST; river; formerly called Dead Man's river, which from Dead Man's hill; combatants slain in a battle were buried on top of the hill.
- GIROUARD; mount, 9,815 ft.; after Sir Percy Girouard, K.C.M.G., D.S.O.
- GOAT; mountain, 9,290 ft.; translation of Indian name "Wap-u-tik." (Palliser).
- GROTTO; mountain, 8,870 ft.; contains a large cave with high arched roof. (Bourgeau).
- HADDO; peak, 10,073 ft.; after George, Lord Haddo, eldest son of the Marquis of Aberdeen.
- HEALY; creek; named by Dr. Dawson after Capt. J. J. Healy, sometime manager of N. A. T. & T. Co., Dawson, who located some copper claims on adjoining mountain.
- HECTOR; mount, 11,135 ft.; lake, 5,704 ft.; after Dr. (later Sir) James Hector, geologist with the Palliser expedition, who discovered the Kicking Horse pass.
- HOLE-IN-THE-WALL; mountain, 9,184 ft.; from cave in side of mountain.
- HOWSE; pass, 4,500 ft.; after Jos. Howse, employee of Hudson's Bay Company, who crossed pass in 1810 to Montana.
- INGLISMALDIE; mountain, 9,715 ft.; after Inglismaldie castle, seat of Earl of Kintore, Scotland.
- KANANASKIS; river (mouth), 4,179 ft.; corruption of "Kin-e-ah-kis," a Cree Indian, who is reputed to have made a marvellous recovery after a blow from an axe.
- LEFROY; mount, 11,200 ft.; after Major-General Sir John H. Lefroy, head of Toronto Observatory, 1842-53. (Hector).
- LOUIS; mount, 8,800 ft.; after Louis B. Stewart, D.T.S., Professor of Surveying, Toronto University.
- LOUISE; lake, 5,670 ft.; after Her Royal Highness Princess Louise, wife of Marquis of Lorne, former Governor General of Canada.
- MARGARET; lake, 5,924 ft.; after a daughter of Rev. H. P. Nichols, Holy Trinity Church, New York. (Thompson).
- MCCONNELL; mount, 10,200 ft.; after R. G. McConnell, Deputy Minister, Department of Mines; assistant to Dr. Dawson in 1882.
- MINNEWANKA; lake, 4,800 ft.; Indian name meaning "lake of the water spirit."
- MIRROR; lake, 6,650 ft.; from the reflection in the lake when seen from a great height above.



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## PLACE NAMES AND ALTITUDES

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- MITRE, THE; mountain, 9,470 ft.; from its resemblance to a bishop's mitre.
- MOLAR; mount, 9,914 ft.; "so much resembling a large tooth that we named it mount Molar." (Hector).
- MORaine; lake, 6,190 ft.; after the ridge of glacial formation at its lower end. (Wilcox).
- MORLEY; village, 4,067 ft.; after famous Methodist clergyman, Rev. William Morley Punshon.
- NEPTUAK; mountain, 10,607 ft.; Stoney Indian numeral "nine"; the ninth of the Ten Peaks.
- NIBLOCK; mount, 9,764 ft.; after Superintendent Niblock, Canadian Pacific Railway.
- NORQUAY; mount, 8,284 ft.; after Hon. John Norquay, sometime Premier of Manitoba.
- OPAL; mountain, 8,000 ft.; from small cavities found here, lined with quartz crystals coated with films of opal.
- PALLISER; range (summit), 9,930 ft.; after Capt. John Palliser, who commanded an exploration expedition in the Rockies, 1857-60.
- PEECHIE; mount, 9,615 ft.; after Sir George Simpson's half-breed guide.
- PIGEON; mountain, 7,845 ft.; probably after the wild pigeons seen in the vicinity. (Bourgeau).
- PILOT; mountain, 9,650 ft.; because visible for a long distance down the valley.
- PINNACLE; mountain, 10,062 ft.; descriptive. (Wilcox).
- PIPESTONE; river (mouth), 5,029 ft.; because of the occurrence on it of fragments of soft, fine-grained, grey-blue argillite, which the Indians have used in the manufacture of pipes. (Hector).
- PULPIT; peak, 8,940 ft.; descriptive. (Thompson).
- REDEARTH; creek; from the red ochre found on its banks.
- REDOUBT; peak, 9,510 ft.; "formation resembles a huge redoubt." (Wheeler).
- RUNDLE; mount, 9,665 ft.; after Rev. Robt. T. Rundle, Methodist Missionary to the Indians of the Northwest, 1840-48. The Stonies say of him "poor he came among us and poor he went away, leaving us rich."
- ST. PIRAN; mount, 8,691 ft.; after St. Piran, Liggan bay, Cornwall, Eng., the birthplace of W. J. Astley, late manager of Lake Louise Chalet. (Wilcox).
- SAWBACK; range (summit), 10,000 ft.; its vertical beds of limestone form a serrated edge.
- SEEBEE; station, 4,217 ft.; Cree Indian for "river."
- SHEOL; mountain, 9,108 ft.; previously called Devils Thumb; name changed to avoid confusion with Devils Head.

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## IN BANFF PARK

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SIMPSON; pass, 6,914 ft.; after Sir Geo. Simpson, Governor of Hudson's Bay Company, who crossed it on his journey around the world in 1841.

SPRAY; river, from spray of falls in river.

STORM; mountain, 10,332 ft.; after numerous storm clouds seen on its summit. (Dawson).

SULPHUR; mountain, 8,030 ft.; from hot springs on side.

TEMPLE; mount, 11,626 ft.; by Dawson, after Sir Richard Temple, President, Economic Science and Statistics Section, British Association, 1884, which visited the Rockies in that year.

THREE SISTERS; peaks (highest), 9,744 ft.; descriptive.

TUZO; mount, 10,648 ft.; after Miss Henrietta L. Tuzo, now Mrs. J. A. Wilson, of Ottawa, first lady to ascend Eagle peak.

TYRRELL; mount, 8,919 ft.; after J. B. Tyrrell, Assistant Geologist with Dawson in survey of Rocky Mountains, 1883.

VERMILION; lakes, 4,521 ft.; from ferruginous beds in vicinity.

VICTORIA; mount, 11,355 ft.; by McArthur after late Queen Victoria.

WASTACH; river (Paradise valley); Stoney Indian for "beautiful."

WENKCHEMNA; mountain, 10,401 ft.; Stoney Indian numeral meaning "ten."

WHITE; mount, 9,040 ft.; after Jas. White, Deputy Head Commission of Conservation, Ottawa, Assistant to Dr. Dawson, 1884.

WHYTE; mount, 9,776 ft.; after late Sir William Whyte, 2nd Vice-President, Canadian Pacific Railway.

WIND; mountain, 10,100 ft.; by Bourgeau because surrounded, when seen, by wind clouds.

YUKNESS; mount, 9,342 ft.; Sioux Indian for "sharpened as with a knife."

## \*PLACE NAMES AND ALTITUDES IN YOHO PARK

AMISKWI; peak, 9,249 ft.; Cree Indian for "beaver."

BAKER; mount, 10,451 ft.; after G. P. Baker, member Appalachian Mountain Club, Boston. (Collie).

BALFOUR; mount, 10,741 ft.; by Sir Jas. Hector, after John Hutton Balfour (1808-84), botanist, Edinburgh, Scotland.

BIDDLE; mount, 10,878 ft.; after M. Biddle, who climbed mount Sir Donald in 1902.

BURGESS; mount, 8,473 ft.; after late A. M. Burgess, former Deputy Minister of the Interior.

CATHEDRAL; mountain, 10,454 ft.; from resemblance to cathedral.

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\*From a paper by Mr. Jas. White, Deputy Head of the Commission of Conservation, read before the Royal Society of Canada, 1916.

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## PLACE NAMES AND ALTITUDES

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- CHANCELLOR; peak, 10,731 ft.; after Sir John Boyd, Chancellor of Ontario.
- DALY; mount, 10,342 ft.; after late Judge Chas. F. Daly, President American Geographical Society, 1864-99.
- DENNIS; mount, 8,326 ft.; after late Lieut.-Col. J. Stoughton Dennis, Surveyor-General of Canada.
- DUCHESNAY; mount, 9,592 ft.; after late E. J. Duchesnay, C.E., Assistant General Superintendent, Canadian Pacific Railway, killed in tunnel near Spuzzum by falling rock.
- EMERALD; lake, 4,262 ft.; peak, 8,332 ft.; from colour of water.
- FIELD; town, 4,066 ft.; mount, 8,645 ft.; after Cyrus West Field, promoter of first Atlantic cable, who visited the locality in 1884.
- GOODSIR; mountain, 11,676 ft.; after John Goodsir, Professor of Anatomy, Edinburgh University from 1846. (Hector).
- HABEL; mount, 10,361 ft.; after Dr. Jean Habel, Berlin, who went up Yoho valley in 1887.
- HUNGABEE; mount, 11,447 ft.; Stoney Indian word meaning "chief-tain."
- ICE; river; translation of Indian name "Wash-ma-Wapta"; rises in glaciers of mount Vaux. (Dawson).
- KICKING HORSE; pass, 5,332 ft.; Sir Jas. Hector was nearly killed by a kick from his horse near site of present Wapta station; name is abbreviation of translation from Indian.
- KIWETINOK; peak, 9,512 ft.; Cree Indian word signifying "on the north side."
- LEANCHOIL; station, 3,682 ft.; Lord Strathcona's mother was Barbara Stuart of the manor of Leth-na-Coyle (Lainchoil), Inverness, Scotland. (Strathcona).
- MARPOLE; mount, 9,822 ft.; after R. Marpole, General Executive Assistant, Canadian Pacific Railway, Vancouver.
- MCCARTHUR; lake, 7,359 ft.; after J. J. McArthur, D.L.S., International Boundary Surveys, Department of the Interior.
- NILES; mount, 9,742 ft.; after Prof. W. H. Niles, President of the Appalachian Mountain Club. (Fay).
- ODARAY; mount, 10,165 ft.; Stoney Indian for "very brushy" or "wind-fall." (Habel).
- OESA; lake, 7,398 ft.; from Stoney Indian word meaning "ice"; its surface is ice-covered practically all the time.
- O'HARA; lake, 6,664 ft.; after Lieut.-Col. O'Hara, R.A., who frequently visited the locality.
- OTTERTAIL; river; translation of Indian name.
- POLLINGER; mount, 8,998 ft.; after Jos. Pollinger, Swiss guide, who made first ascents of the President, The Vice-President and other peaks.

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## IN YOHO PARK

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PRESIDENT; peak, 10,287 ft.; after Lord Shaughnessy, President of Canadian Pacific Railway. (McNicoll).

PROSPECTOR; valley; after an old prospector's camp near its entrance. (Wilcox).

ROSS; lake, 5,654 ft.; after the late Sir Jas. Ross. Superintendent of Construction, Canadian Pacific Railway, in 1884.

SCHAEFFER; mount, 8,824 ft.; after Dr. and Mrs. Schaeffer, of Philadelphia, who did valuable exploration and botanical work in the Rockies. The latter (now Mrs. William Warren, of Banff) discovered Maligne lake, Jasper park.

STEPHEN; mount, 10,485 ft.; after Sir Geo. Stephen, later Baron Mount Stephen, formerly President, Canadian Pacific Railway.

TAKAKKAW; falls; Indian name signifying "it is wonderful"; suggested by Sir William Van Horne.

TROLLTINDER; peak, 9,570 ft.; named by Jean Habel because it resembles somewhat a well-known mountain in the Norwegian valley of Romsdalen; name signifies "witch's peak."

VAN HORNE; range; after late Sir William Van Horne, formerly Chairman, Canadian Pacific Railway. (Dawson).

VAUX; mount, 10,881 ft.; possibly after George Charles (Mostyn) 6th Lord Vaux de Harrowden. (Hector).

VICE-PRESIDENT; mount, 10,049 ft.; after late D. McNichol. 1st Vice-President, Canadian Pacific Railway.

WAPTA; peak, 9,106 ft.; Stoney Indian for "river."

WAPUTIK; range, 10,000 ft.; Stoney Indian for "white goat"; former favourite haunt of goats.

WIWAXY; peaks, 8,860 ft.; Stoney Indian for "windy."

YOHO; valley, 4,800 ft.; pass, 6,020 ft.; Cree Indian word signifying "wonder or astonishment."

## \*PLACE NAMES AND ALTITUDES IN GLACIER PARK

ABBOTT; mount, 8,081 ft.; after H. Abbott, an official of the Canadian Pacific Railway.

ALBERT; canyon, 2,350 ft.; by Rev. Principal Grant for Albert Rogers, nephew of Major Rogers, discoverer of Rogers Pass.

ASULKAN; valley, 4,100 to 6,600 ft.; Indian for "wild goat;" by W. Spotswood Green, because of numbers of wild goats seen on pass at the head of Asulkan glacier.

AVALANCHE; mount, 9,387 ft.; owing to numerous avalanches.

BAGHEERA; mount, 9,096 ft.; by the Topographical Survey (bagheera, tiger), with reference to Cougar brook.

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\*Data from "The Selkirk Mountains," by A. O. Wheeler, Director of the Alpine Club of Canada.

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## PLACE NAMES AND ALTITUDES

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- BALD; mountain, 7,663 ft.; owing to smooth, grassy slopes lying along its crest.
- BALOO; pass, 6,681 ft.; Indian for "bear," with reference to Bear creek.
- BATTLE; creek; owing to a fight between a prospector and a grizzly.
- BEAR; creek, 2,900 to 7,000 ft.; owing to former prevalence of bears in its valley.
- BEAVER; river, 2,400 to 4,600 ft.; from great number of beavers that formerly inhabited the valley.
- BISHOP'S; range, 10,762 ft.; by Topographical Survey, with reference to contour of its two highest peaks seen from Donkin pass.
- BONNEY; mount, 10,205 ft.; by W. S. Green, after Rev. T. G. Bonney, F.R.S., Prof. University College, London, and then President, Alpine Club (England).
- CAMELS, THE; peculiarly shaped rocks on the summit of mount Tupper.
- CASTOR; peak, 9,108 ft.; by Messrs. Abbott, Fay and Thompson, with reference to Castor and Pollux of heathen mythology.
- CHEOPS; mount, 8,506 ft.; with reference to Great Pyramid of Cheops, from the pyramidal form of the extreme peak.
- COUGAR; brook, 3,500 to 7,000 ft.; owing to cougars or mountain lions by which valley was said to have been frequented.
- CORBIN; peak, 8,892 ft.; after a prospector from Illecillewaet village.
- DAWSON; mount, 11,113 ft.; by W. S. Green, after late George M. Dawson, D.S., F.G.S., Director Geological Survey of Canada.
- DOME, THE; 9,029 ft.; on account of its contour, by Messrs. Fay, Thompson and Abbott.
- DONKIN; mount, 9,694 ft.; by W. S. Green, after W. F. Donkin, of the Alpine Club, England; killed in Caucasus in year Mr. Green made his survey of Selkirks, 1888.
- DOUGLAS; falls, 5,000 ft.; after Howard Douglas, formerly Chief Superintendent Dominion Parks.
- EAGLE; peak, 9,353 ft.; rock on southeast face seen from Glacier House resembles an eagle.
- FEUZ; peak, 10,982 ft.; after Ed. Feuz, Sr., Swiss guide stationed at Glacier House.
- FOX; mount, 10,576 ft.; by W. S. Green, after Mr. Fox, English Alpinist, who lost his life in Caucasus, 1888.
- GEIKIE; glacier, 4,200 to 8,000 ft.; by W. S. Green, after Sir Archibald Geikie, F.R.S.
- GREEN; mount, 8,860 ft.; after W. S. Green, author of "Among the Selkirk Glaciers."
- HERMIT, THE; 8,887 ft.; a rock-figure on west ridge of mount Tupper resembling a hermit with dog sitting at his feet.



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## IN GLACIER PARK

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- ILLECILLEWAET; river; by Walter Moberly, C.E.; Indian for "swift water."
- INCOMAPPELUX; river; Kootenay Indian for "fish river."
- LILY; glacier, 5,500 to 8,200 ft.; after daughter of Rev. H. Swanzy, who explored Selkirks with W. S. Green.
- MACDONALD; mount, 9,428 ft.; by Order-in-Council, after the late Rt. Hon. Sir John A. Macdonald, Premier of Canada.
- MACOUN; mount, 9,988 ft.; after late Prof. John Macoun, Dominion Naturalist and Botanist.
- MARION; lake, 5,666 ft.; by W. S. Green, after his daughter.
- McNICOLL; mount, 8,745 ft.; after D. McNicoll, Vice-President, Canadian Pacific Railway.
- MITRE; creek; in relation to Bishop's glacier.
- NAKIMU; caves; Indian for "grumbling."
- PURITY; mountain, 10,457 ft.; by H. W. Topham, who saw it from Donkin pass, a pure white cone shrouded in snow.
- RAMPART, THE; 8,476 ft.; with reference to the great rock escarpment rising sheer above Asulkan valley.
- ROGERS; mount, 10,536 ft.; by Carl Sulzer, after Major Rogers, discoverer of Rogers pass.
- ROSS; peak, 7,718 ft.; after Jas. Ross, in charge of construction, Canadian Pacific Railway.
- SELWYN; mount, 11,013 ft.; after late Dr. Selwyn, Director, Geological Survey of Canada.
- SIR DONALD; mount, 10,808 ft.; by Order-in-Council, after Sir Donald A. Smith, later Lord Strathcona, one of the first directors of the Canadian Pacific Railway.
- SIR SANDFORD; mount, 11,634 ft.; after Sir Sandford Fleming, K.C. M.G., first President, Alpine Club of Canada.
- SMART; mount, 9,517 ft.; after Jas. A. Smart, formerly Deputy Minister, Department of Interior.
- SWANZY; mount, 9,562 ft.; after Rev. H. Swanzy, W. S. Green's companion in exploration of Selkirks, 1888.
- TUPPER; mount, 9,229 ft.; formerly mount Hermit, changed by Order-in-Council, in honour of Sir Charles Tupper, one of the fathers of Confederation.
- URSUS MAJOR; mount, 8,930 ft.; in relation to Bear creek, by Topographical Survey.
- URSUS MINOR; mount, 9,026 ft.; in relation to Bear creek, by Topographical Survey.
- WITCH TOWER, THE; 8,080 ft.; fantastic group of rock-shapes on northwestern shoulder from the summit of mount Fox; suggests number of hideous old giant beldames leaning from parapet of rock tower.

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## PLACE NAMES AND ALTITUDES

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### \*PLACE NAMES AND ALTITUDES IN MOUNT REVELSTOKE PARK

CLACHNACUDAINN; range, 8,675 ft.; after the Clach-na-cudden or "Stone of the Tubs," the palladium of Inverness, Scotland.

REVELSTOKE; mount; after Lord Revelstoke, English financier and member of Canadian Pacific Railway Company, who visited Canadian West in late eighties.

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\*Data from "The Selkirk Mountains," by A. O. Wheeler, Director of the Alpine Club of Canada.



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FURTHER INFORMATION WITH REGARD TO THE  
NATIONAL PARKS OF CANADA  
MAY BE OBTAINED UPON APPLICATION TO  
J. B. HARKIN, COMMISSIONER, DEPART-  
MENT OF THE INTERIOR, OTTAWA, CANADA

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MAP  
OF  
**YOHO PARK**

Scale 100 Miles = 1 Inch

Legend

Roads shown thus \_\_\_\_\_

Trails " " " " " "



MAP  
OF

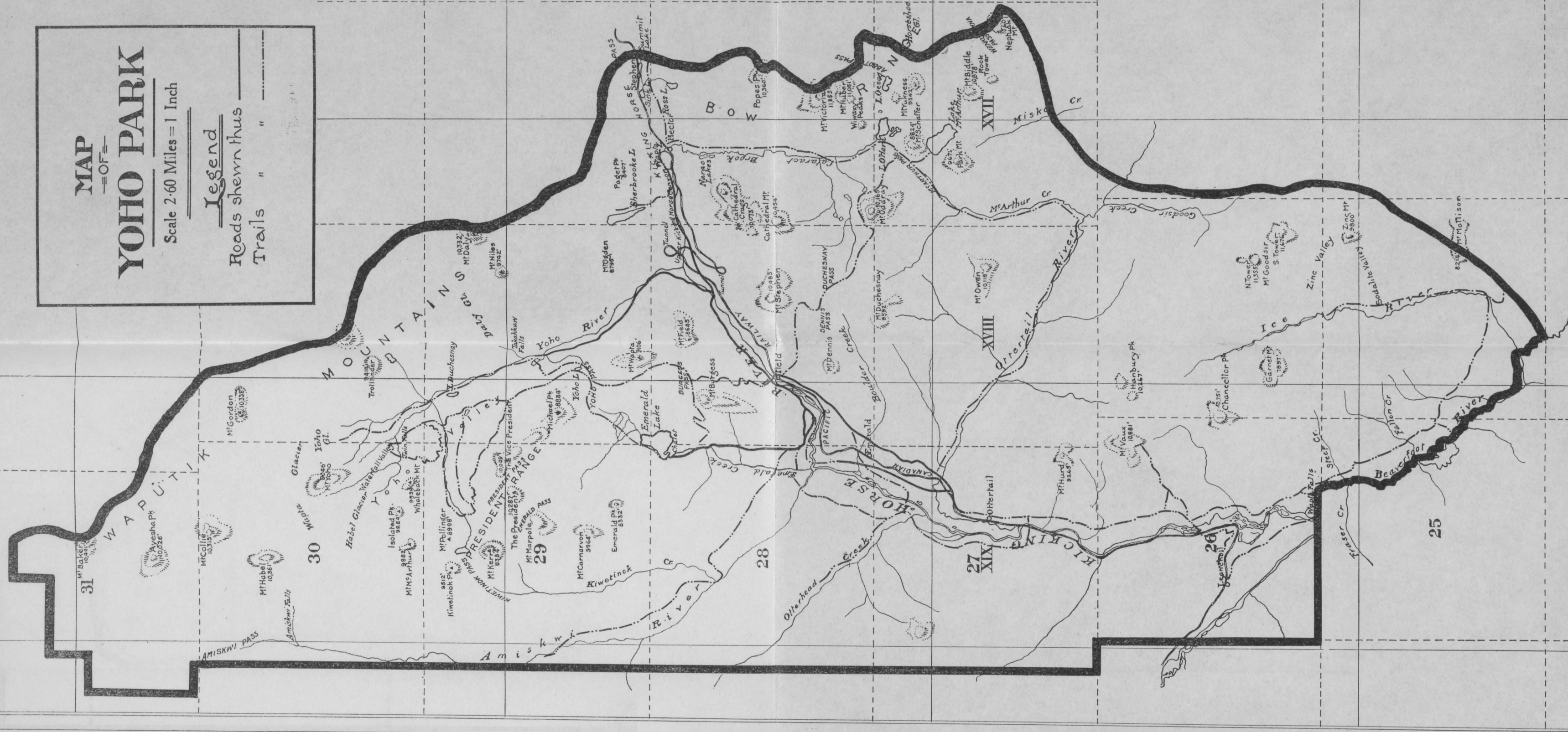
# YOHO PARK

Scale 2.60 Miles = 1 Inch

## Legend

Roads shown thus —

Trails " " —







II

I

XXIX

XXVIII

MAP  
-OF-  
**MT REVELSTOKE PARK**  
Scale:-1.97 Miles=1 Inch

LEGEND  
Roads shewn thus ———  
Trails " " - - - - -

COLUMBIA

RIVER

RANGE

CLACH-NA-COODIN

Clach-na-coodin  
Snowfield

CLACH-NA-COODIN

CLACH-NA-COODIN

PACIFIC

RIVER

RAILWAY

25

24

Balsam  
Lake

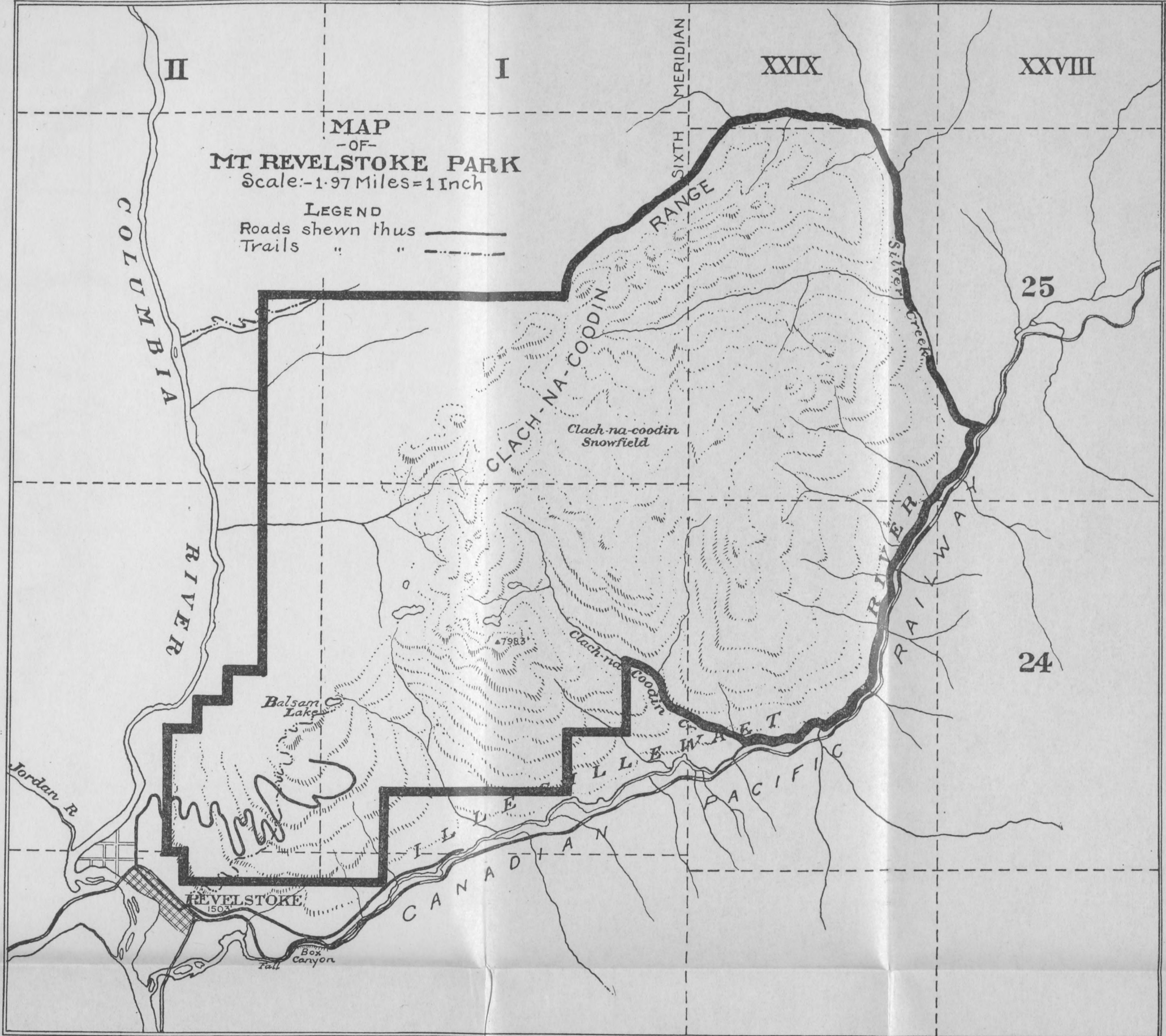
7983

REVELSTOKE  
1503

Box  
Canyon

CANADIAN

Jordan R



III

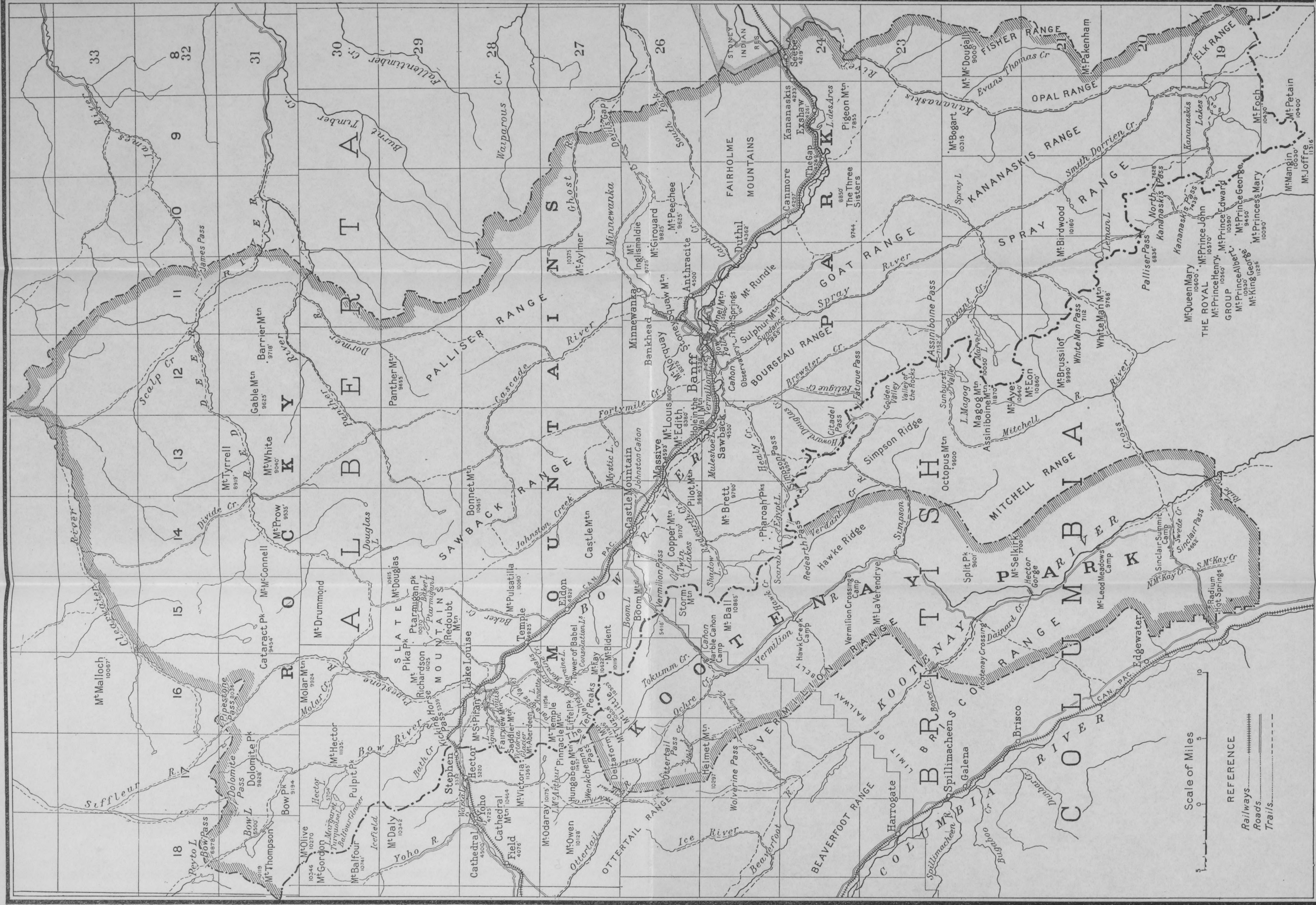
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ТОЛДОН



# ROCKY MOUNTAINS & KOOTENAY NATIONAL PARKS



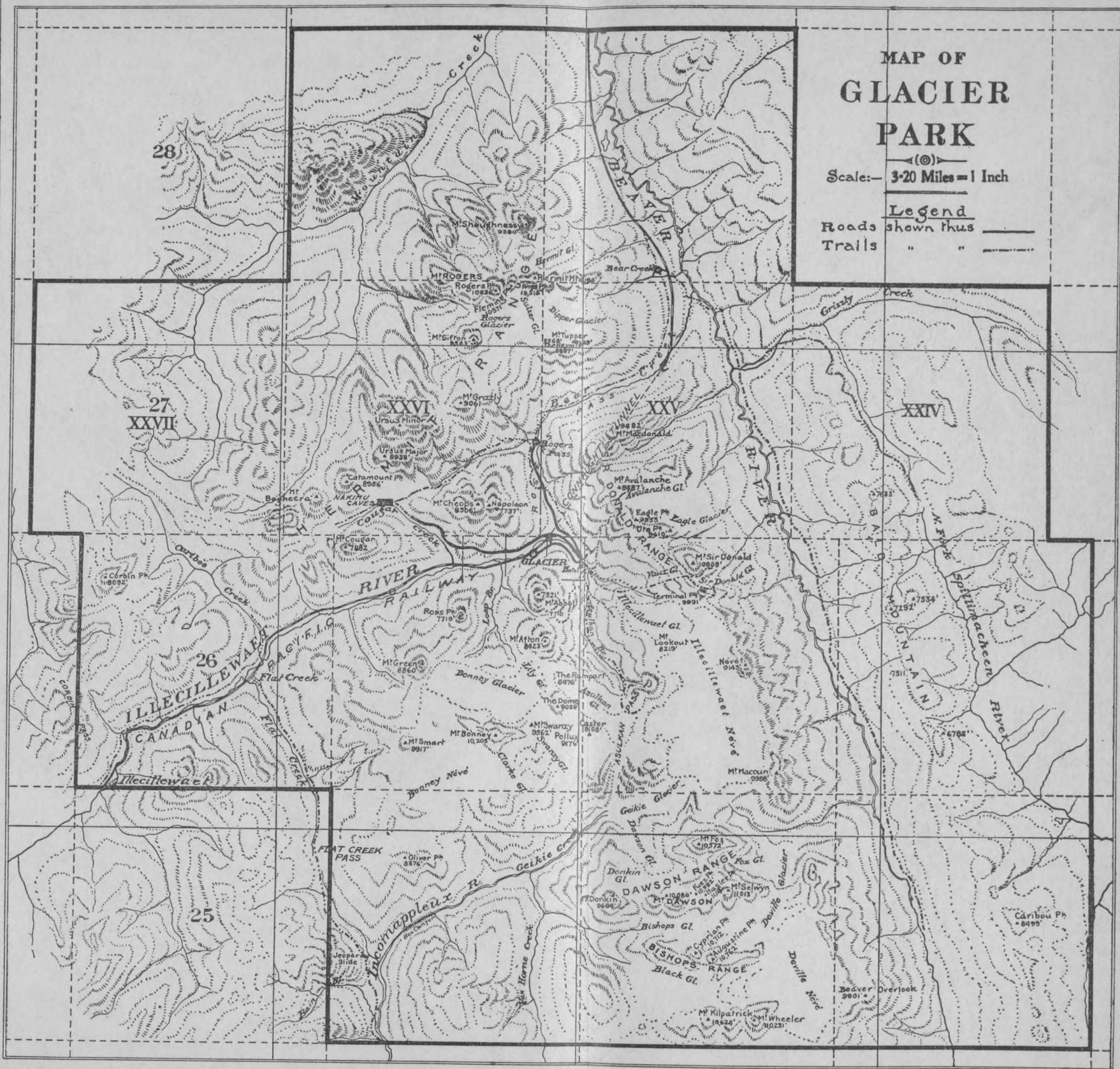




# MAP OF GLACIER PARK

Scale:— 3.20 Miles = 1 Inch

Legend  
Roads shown thus ———  
Trails " " ———



MAP OF  
GLACIER







